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in the Magazine

PLUS: WEEKEND CAR 96, WEEKEND MONEY 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND OUR 7-DAY TELEVISION AND RADIO GUIDE

I raised £750,000 for Tory party funds, Greer claims

MPs 'sought cash for next election'

By Andrew Pierce and Philip Webster

IAN GREER, the lobbyist at the heart of the cash-for-questions affair, claimed yesterday that he had raised £750,000 for the Conservatives over the past ten years, that he was paid to provide a car and offices for John Major's 1990 leadership campaign, and that ministers had approached him this summer for help with their election expenses.

Mr Greer, who confirmed that he was resigning from his lobbying company, detailed the full extent of his links with the Conservatives and Mr Major in an interview with *The Times* that will further embarrass the party as it gathers for its annual conference in Bournemouth.

The Prime Minister had earlier complained that the whole business was poisoning British politics because of the way it was being slanted. He accused newspapers of operating kangaroo courts and responded angrily to reports that the Government had tried to influence a parliamentary inquiry into the Neil Hamilton affair, insisting that he had nothing to hide.

He did not comment on the direct allegation that a government whip had discussed with a select committee chairman how to handle the inquiry. But, banging the table for emphasis during an BBC Television interview with David Frost, he said he bitterly resented claims of a cover-up.

He hoped that Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary commissioner for standards, would carry out his own inquiry into the Hamilton case as speedily as possible and publish the result.

Mr Major accused Labour of leading a witchhunt and said he would be surprised if anyone at Westminster did not know Mr Greer: "He paid for Tony Blair to go on Concorde to America. He handed fees, via an intermediary, to Robin Cook for making speeches on party political matters. He had two or three Labour members on his board."

Asked about the car Mr Greer was said to have lent him for his own leadership campaign, Mr

Major replied: "He didn't lend me a car. He drove me from Downing Street to St James's Park. It took three minutes. It's a lot shorter than a Concorde trip to America."

In his *Times* interview yesterday, Mr Greer said that after Margaret Thatcher's resignation, he had gone to Mr Major's leadership headquarters to offer assistance. "Someone said they needed a car," he said, so he made his Daimler available for three or four days. He recalled driving Mr and Mrs Major from 11 Downing Street to St James's Park. "It was used for ferrying around. I drove Norman Lamont, who ran the campaign and was my local MP, backwards and forwards."

The campaign headquarters at Alan Duncan's Westminster home was too small, so Mr Major's team rented office space at Mr Greer's company in Catherine Place near by. "They insisted on paying for it. I remember being insulted but they insisted it had to be that way."

Mr Greer also said that he had raised £750,000 for the Tories over the past decade. "I raised the money directly or indirectly by encouraging businessmen, and many of my clients, to make donations. It seemed the right thing to do. I regret now being so enthusiastic."

Some of the 24 MPs who had benefited from donations to their general election fighting funds had solicited the money. He had seen Gerald Bowden, the MP for Dulwich, at Hatchards bookshop in Piccadilly just as the 1987 election had been called: "He asked me if there was anything I could do to help."

As recently as three months ago, Tory MPs — including some junior ministers — had approached him to see if any financial assistance would be

Lobbyist quits, page 2
William Rees-Mogg and Peter Riddell, page 22
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Ian Greer at his Kingston upon Thames home yesterday. "I regret now being so enthusiastic"

Police use teenage informers in crime crackdown

By Stewart Tendler
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are recruiting informers as young as 14 in a crackdown on crimes ranging from burglaries to muggings, ram-raiding and drug dealing.

Two of the largest forces in Britain, the Metropolitan and West Midlands, already use child informers and have special guidelines for handling them. Others are keen to mine a potentially rich vein of criminal intelligence from a group responsible for 40 per cent of offences annually.

Of 43 forces in England and Wales which were recently canvassed on the idea of using young informants, only one was opposed. The majority, questioned in a project backed by the Home Office, asked for a national lead in how to handle them.

Now a working party formed by chief constables is drawing up national guidelines. The group is headed by Roy Penrose, a deputy assistant commissioner, national coordinator of the regional crime squads and an expert on the use of informants. After consultation with forces and lawyers, the guidelines are expected to be issued in the spring.

They will cover whether police should try to recruit young informants and whether an independent adult, such as a probation officer or teacher, should be involved.

The guidelines will also spell out the precautions police should take to check the information: whether parents should be told; how officers should protect themselves against allegations of corruption; what payments should be given, and what to do if the child informs on his or her family.

Scotland Yard's guidelines are likely to be a national model. They are believed to tell officers that they should apply the same cautious approach as used in dealing with criminals on bail who offer information. The youths must be seen at a police station, two officers should at-



"Would you come down to the toy shop to help us with our inquiries?"

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Tebbit fuels EMU row as McAlpine quits

By Philip Webster and Peter Riddell

JOHN MAJOR's hopes of a Tory party ceasefire over Europe are dealt a blow today with a warning from Lord Tebbit that the Prime Minister's wait-and-see policy on the single currency will not work.

In an interview with *The Times*, the former Conservative chairman says that the policy so strongly advocated by Mr Major

at the weekend will not survive an election campaign because "we will be smoked out".

He suggests Mr Major should rule Britain out of the single currency's first wave and assume leadership of the "outs" — countries excluded from monetary union if an inner core goes ahead.

In a further jolt on the eve of the party conference, Lord McAlpine, the former Tory treasurer, has disclosed that he is defecting to James Goldsmith's

Referendum Party and will chair its conference this month. In tonight's *Panorama* programme he says that he has told Baroness Thatcher about his change of allegiance and that he is not afraid of being branded a traitor.

He says: "People talk in terms of traitors and they blame people for changing their minds. I mean, for God's sake, it's a mobile thing, politics."

"I don't need any converting to the point of view of the Refer-

dum Party. I need converting back to the Conservative Party because they don't seem to be very Conservative."

Mr Major yesterday continued his efforts to defuse the European dispute, saying that he would keep Britain in the talks on a single currency because if it went ahead and failed it would make the ERM's failure "look like a teddy bears' picnic".

Tebbit interview, page 9

Eurotunnel verdict

Shareholders in Eurotunnel will today hear the result of months of negotiations between the company and its banks, which are owed a total of £9 billion between them. **Page 52**

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Inquiry double acts to split up

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

NEW government guidelines would prevent another Scott inquiry with a legal double-act such as Sir Richard and Presley Baxendale, QC, firing questions at witnesses. A review of procedures recommends that inquiry chairmen should keep their distance from counsel to the inquiry during questioning of witnesses.

A senior Whitehall source said: "We must get away from any impression that a government inquiry is gunning at witnesses. That is not acceptable and it is necessary for the chairmen of future inquiries to keep aloof from the counsel to the inquiry. We thought that Sir Richard and Presley Baxendale were a little too close in their approach."

The suggested reforms come from the Council of Tribunals to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, who has broadly accepted the report. They are expected to be published later this month. The review is also expected to recommend legal representation for anyone likely to be criticised by an inquiry, and for the lawyer to be allowed to challenge any premise made by other witnesses.

The joint interrogation of witnesses by Sir Richard and Miss Baxendale during their investigation into arms to Iraq provoked a furore among ministers and senior officials. Lord Howe, QC, the former Deputy Prime Minister, was among the most vocal in his criticism. "Far from the carefully distanced neutrality that normally separates the two, Presley Baxendale, QC, and the judge sat alongside each other like partners in a double-barrelled inquisition," he said. He accused Sir Richard of acting as "detective, inquisitor, advocate and judge".

Last night, Sir Richard preferred to wait for publication of the report before making any comment.

'My staff have been 100 per cent loyal. I owed it to them to walk away'

Doyen of lobbyists explains why he is stepping down

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IAN GREER, the high priest of political lobbyists, stands down today as chairman of the company at the centre of the cash-for-questions dispute. Mr Greer, 63, confirmed last night that he had offered his 100 per cent shareholding to the other directors at a board meeting on Friday. He has entered into talks with Sir Tim Bell, one of the advertising men advising the Tory party, about a home for staff and clients, should the directors turn down the share offer.

Literary agents have approached Mr Greer to sign a publishing deal to "explode the myths" of his profession and tell the inside story on the cash-for-questions affair.

Mr Greer's decision to walk away from the company, Ian Greer Associates, which he built up from scratch 14 years ago, was the hardest he has ever taken. Mr Greer, speaking to *The Times* at his Surrey home, said yesterday: "I decided for the sake and honour of my clients, who have stayed loyal to me to stand aside. I also wanted to give my staff

the chance to rebuild the company under a different name. My staff have been 100 per cent loyal. I owed it to them to walk away. It was difficult, I was proud of IGA. It is still viable but I knew the name Greer had to go."

But Mr Greer will retain control of Ian Greer International, which has clients worldwide. "I am not running away or giving up or changing the name. I am going to continue to work."

Mr Greer has no money in the bank and faces legal costs of £250,000. All his money was invested in the business which he was offered £2 million for two years ago.

IGA, with a £35 million turnover at the peak of its success, was the biggest lobbying company in Europe. Mr Greer was on first name terms with most members of the Cabinet. John and Norma Major were guests at his 10th anniversary party at the National Portrait Gallery in 1992.

Then, it seemed as if the world was at his feet. But that was changed two years later

by the allegations in *The Guardian* by Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods. Mr Greer was accused of being a conduit of cash to the Tory MPs Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith to table Commons questions. To this day he strongly denies the charge which he attributes to Mr Fayed's grudge against ministers over his failure to secure a British passport and the Department of Trade and Industry report into the takeover of the House of Fraser which branded the Harrods owner a "cheat" and "liar".

In 1990 Mr Greer disclosed at a Commons committee that he had made "thank you" payments to three MPs for the introduction of new business. Last week their identities were revealed. The payments were not in breach of parliamentary regulations. Two MPs, Mr Hamilton and Michael Brown, broke the rules by not declaring them.

"I am a businessman. I made the payments for the introduction of business opportunities which were not turned down. With hindsight it was a mistake," Mr Greer said.

The source of the money he paid into 24 MPs' fighting funds in the 1987 election was Mr Fayed and DHL International. Mr Greer, who was once a Tory agent to the former Cabinet minister Peter Walker, knew it was hard to raise cash locally for an election campaign.

Mr Greer had raised money for the Tories before. He was amazed at the horror expressed by MPs such as David Mellor and Sir Anthony Durrant who said they would not have touched money from Mr Fayed. Mr Greer did not disclose the donor or the recipients so there was no "anticipation or expectation".

"If Mr Mellor and Sir Anthony are now so concerned they can give the money to a charity. None of the MPs asked donors' names. They were happy to have the money in their fighting funds."

Greer's £750,000

Continued from page 1
available for their fighting funds for the next general election.

Mr Greer has sponsored the fringe guide for the Tory Conference which opens in Bournemouth tomorrow, but he has decided to stay away and has cancelled his annual lunch for clients and politicians. "I do not want to expose my clients to a media circus. I decided the best way was to withdraw," he said.

Mr Greer is a lifelong Tory supporter, but he said his company also had strong links with Labour. Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, who has played down his connections with the lobbyist, had addressed a lunch meeting of his clients at the Connaught hotel in the sum-

mer, and had gone to the IGA offices to talk to the staff about the Labour Party.

Mr Greer was speaking at attention in the controversy switched to David Willetts, the Paymaster General, and a memo he is reported to have written when a whip to the committee investigating allegations against Mr Hamilton in 1994. The memo said that two options for the committee were discussed: to investigate matters quickly, "exploiting the good Tory majority" on the committee, or to defer it, citing Mr Hamilton's pending libel action.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, the committee chairman, has recalled speaking with Mr Willetts, but fiercely denied being influenced by the whip.



Dogged pursuit: police patrolling the Tory party conference venue yesterday

Willetts memo could be 'smoking gun' for Tories

By PHILIP WEBSTER

ALLEGATIONS that Paymaster General David Willetts apparently tried to stall a Commons inquiry into the Neil Hamilton affair when a whip two years ago yesterday became the most damaging disclosure so far for the Government in the revived cash-for-questions row.

The confidential memorandum by Mr Willetts about his conversation with Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, then chairman of the members' interests select committee, would have surprised no one who knows the workings of Westminster and the prodigious influence wielded by the Tory whips.

Ministers claimed yesterday that Mr Willetts was merely doing his job. But if the allegation were to be proven that senior Tories even considered using their comfortable majority to clear Mr Hamilton it would be serious blow to the Government. A senior Tory MP said yesterday: "I hope this is not the smoking gun."

It was, however, the disclosure of anything that transpired between whips in their notoriously clandestine world that shocked Conservative MPs most yesterday. They were astonished that Mr Willetts wrote down anything



Willetts: sent memorandum

about such a sensitive conversation. But they were doubly shocked that it should have been exposed.

The thoughts of the whips, if ever committed to paper, are kept very seriously secret. Whips keep records on the speaking and voting performances of Tory MPs: it has never been denied that they have a "black book" in which the indiscretions of their colleagues are recorded, for use when the going gets tough if they need to be brought into line. But these papers are locked up in the whips' office just off the Member's Lobby in

the Commons and would not normally go to Downing Street. Exchanges of the type between Mr Willetts and Mr Johnson-Smith are rarely committed to paper.

The Times understands, however, that the paper came from a document called the Government whips' book. The memo went to *The Guardian* newspaper in a package of government documents provided by Downing Street as it prepared its case in the Hamilton libel action.

Richard Ryder, the former chief whip, was subpoenaed to appear in the case and it is assumed that he produced the note after going through the documents that applied to his time in charge.

The detailed contents of the note are fiercely contested by Sir Geoffrey, who denies that he was ever put under pressure by the Government to stall the inquiry into the cash-for-questions aspect of the affair until after Mr Hamilton had concluded his libel action. Although Sir Geoffrey has a different recollection of it than Mr Willetts, the conversation itself is not in dispute.

Whips of both parties are involved in everything that happens at Westminster - not for nothing are they known as the "thought police".

Hewitt is charged with drink driving

James Hewitt has been charged with drink driving after a six-week police inquiry into a late-night crash. Mr Hewitt, 38, a former cavalry officer, of Bratton Clovelly, Devon, was charged with driving with excess alcohol when he answered police call and reported to Heavitree police station in Exeter at the weekend where he was interviewed about the accident. He originally spent several hours in the cells after the crash at Silverton, near Exeter, Devon, at 11.30pm on Saturday, August 24.

Suspect arrested

John Gilligan, a suspect in the murder of the Irish journalist Veronica Guerin, was arrested at Heathrow airport during investigations by customs officers into alleged smuggling of drugs cash to Holland. Another man was questioned and £300,000 seized as they prepared to fly to Amsterdam.

Royal claim

George Foulkes, MP, Labour spokesman on overseas development, yesterday demanded an inquiry into claims that Prince Michael of Kent had exploited his royal status with the British Embassy in Beijing to further his own business interests. Mr Foulkes has tabled a series of Commons questions.

Tipped for chief

John Major is expected to approve the appointment of General Sir Charles Guthrie as Chief of the Defence Staff when the current holder, Field-Marshal Sir Peter Inge, retires early next year. Sir Charles is Chief of the General Staff. He was recommended by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary.

Madras reunion

The British model Samantha Slater, freed after serving more than two years in an Indian prison for drugs offences, has been reunited with her mother in Madras. Miss Slater, 25, who lives in Birmingham, was pardoned by the Indian authorities and released from Trichur prison in Kerala last week.

Rare success

Some of Britain's rarest birds have enjoyed a good breeding season. In Scotland 104 pairs of ospreys raised 155 young. White-tailed eagles raised nine young from seven nests in Scotland, while England's only breeding pair of golden eagles raised a youngster. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said.

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Informers

Continued from page 1
ways be present, and a very senior officer should authorise the arrangement.

Scotland Yard said it did not actively try to recruit juvenile informers but there were no legal impediments against using them, or any bar in Home Office and police instructions. Mr Penrose said he had no problem with seeking information from anyone who could help to catch criminals, but it had to be done ethically.

The bottom line is, we are not going to turn away and do nothing about information that just happens to come from someone under the age of 18, because we could be turning away some valuable stuff," he said.

Another senior officer said teenage informants presented "some wonderful pluses but there are also some potentially disastrous minefields. If a 17-year-old gives information on a very large drugs job do we pay them £20,000? Do you give an informer a mountain bike, and how does he explain that to his parents? Do we tell his parents?"

The plans for national guidance come as the Audit Commission and Home Office urge police to make greater use of intelligence to prevent crime. In a report last month, the commission attacked forces for not making better use of informants. But some forces may not feel happy, even with guidelines, and there are private doubts in the commission about paying youths.

Lawyers are also cautious. There are questions over payment and how youths should be treated in court if their role is disclosed. John Wadham, director of Liberty, said there was concern that children would be encouraged to mix with criminals when police should be working to get them away from crime.



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Adams family enriched by bestselling book on Troubles Sinn Fein leader cashes in with £100,000 royalty cheque

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS, the once penniless president of Sinn Fein who survived on social security hand-outs until last year, is reaping the rewards from his new autobiography which has netted him an advance of up to £100,000.

His family is enjoying a noticeably more affluent lifestyle as they look forward to royalties from worldwide sales expected to bring another six-figure cheque.

Mr Adams's decision to pocket the royalties from his sixth book breaks a pledge he made as recently as February 1994 that he would never benefit personally from his books. He insisted that profits would go instead to republican welfare groups.

While most republicans seem untroubled by Mr Adams's new wealth, there was concern last week when he missed the funeral of a former IRA hunger striker because he was promoting *Before the Dawn* at the Frankfurt Book Fair. Sinn Fein said that he tried unsuccessfully to change his flight to return home early for the funeral.

The book, which costs £17.99, has gone to the top of Ireland's bestseller list after the first print run of 15,000 sold out on both sides of the

border within a week. The book will be published this month in Germany, France, Holland, Greece, Australia and Canada. Most of the royalties will come from sales in America where publishers William Morrow will launch the book in February with an initial 50,000 print run.

American readers are expected to lap up Mr Adams's romantic description of his childhood in West Belfast in the 1950s and his account of the early days of the Troubles in the late 1960s. Mr Adams, who denies that he is a member of the IRA, devotes four pages to describe the life of an IRA gunman in a fictionalised account.

Heinemann, which is publishing the book in Britain and Ireland, says Mr Adams will get 10 per cent of the cover price. His contract is expected to earn him at least £100,000 extra from worldwide sales, although the royalties will not be paid until his advance of £100,000 is paid off.

Mr Adams's new wealth has already attracted gossip about his wife, Colette, and son, Gearoid, in West Belfast. Gearoid, 23, who recently graduated from teacher training college in Belfast, went on a three-week Mediterranean holiday. Adams Jr, who is over 6ft and an accomplished Gaelic footballer, sported a suntan at the weekend when he turned out for Antrim against Fermanagh at Casement Park in West Belfast.

An acquaintance said that Adams Jr is popular in West Belfast, although clearly a cut above his contemporaries financially. "At college he drove a smart car which your average student did not drive. He was much sought after and had a steady girlfriend."

Mr Adams, 48 yesterday, is also showing signs of moving up in the world. The tweed jackets and duffel coats that were his trademark have been replaced by crisp suits and floral silk ties. At less formal events he wears expensive casual clothes.

His earnings are a sensitive matter for Mr Adams who, until last year, relied on £71.70 income support a week. He last received a wage as a Belfast barman in August 1969. At the launch of his book



Gerry Adams promoting his new book at the Frankfurt book fair last week



Colette Adams: new wealth brought gossip

in Belfast last month he looked sheepish when he admitted that he would pocket the royalties, and he was rattled when a reporter from Dublin's *Hot Press* magazine asked him about his earnings. Mr Adams replied: "I'm about the legitimate business of writing. What do you do with your money? The royalties of this book, as the writer, come to me. I have to live the same as you and everybody else." While the book has

proved a boon for the Adams family, Heinemann admits that some of its staff have been unsettled by the decision to publish his work. Sandy Grant, chief executive of Reed Books, Heinemann's parent company, said: "There was a vigorous internal debate because some had reservations about the book. But Mr Adams is one of the serious voices in the debate in Northern Ireland and it is not a book that should be censored."

However, Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, said it was a scandal that Mr Adams would be profiting from an account of the Troubles.

The MP for East Belfast said: "For someone whose life has caused so much misery to so many people, to profit so much is a disgrace. Everyone should leave this book on the shelf."

Leading article, page 22

Fears for children after dogs poisoned on estate

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

POLICE are hunting the owner of a red transit van after four dogs were poisoned to death close to a housing estate. Three of the deaths occurred shortly after a man who got out of the van with a haversack was seen putting something on the ground.

Pet owners have been warned by police to muzzle their dogs and parents urged to keep children away from the three-acre grassy area near the Holmes Estate at Thornaby, Cleveland, where the dogs were poisoned.

Two other dogs have survived after emergency treatment and a boy aged ten, who became ill after playing football on the green, spent two days in hospital. However, any connection with the poisoning has yet to be confirmed.

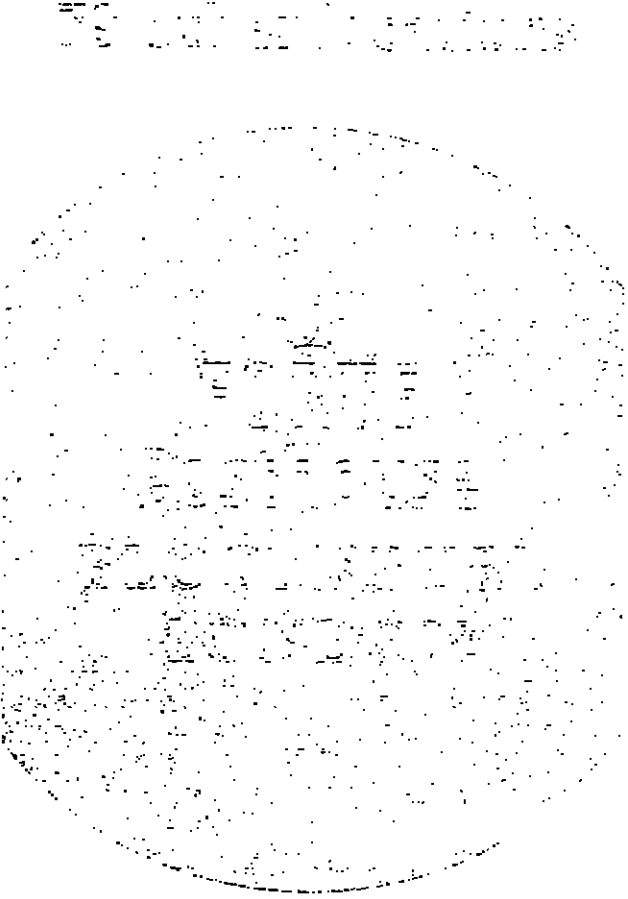
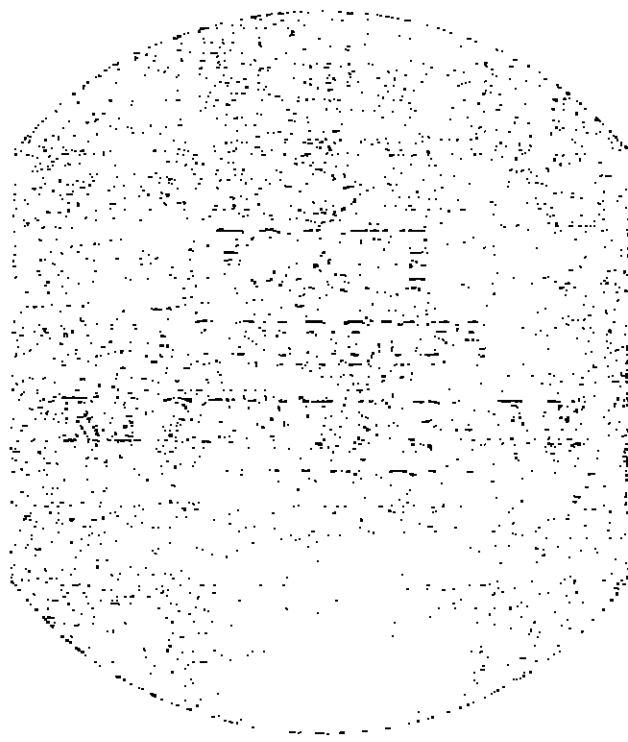
Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture's investigation unit, who carried out post-mortems on the dogs, confirmed that bait laced with poison, probably a pesticide, was responsible. Further tests are being carried out at the ministry's central science laboratories in Slough to determine the poison used.

After the deaths of the first three dogs — a cocker spaniel, a Jack Russell cross and a mongrel — police cordoned off the recreation area while health officials went over it. They failed to find anything suspicious but on Thursday, the day after the area was declared safe, the fourth dog, a border collie, died.

David Francis, head of environmental services at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, said: "Our message to local people remains to continue to be vigilant. If poisoned bait was the cause, as we believe, whoever was responsible could strike again. People who see anything at all suspicious should call the police."

A police spokesman said: "Someone out there is deliberately poisoning dogs. We are asking pet owners not to let their dogs loose and to muzzle them to prevent them sniffing or eating anything found on the ground. We are also urging parents with young children to warn them not to pick anything up from the ground."

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First Brother beatified as last volunteer heeds the call

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Pope beatified the 19th century Irish philanthropist Edmund Rice yesterday, but the religious order which the one-time Waterford merchant founded in 1802 is now left with just one volunteer willing to carry on the tradition.

The Christian Brothers, which helped build the foundations of the Irish education system, has a dwindling band of 400 middle-aged and elderly brothers. In the past six years, only one man has joined the order.

Brendan Murphy, 23, is the only novice in the order which educated most Irish men over the age of 30, including Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, and Charles Haughey, the former Prime Minister.

He joined when he was 17 and is one of the last of his generation. Young people two years ahead of him have left, unwilling to commit themselves to a life of poverty, celibacy and obedience.

Mr Murphy, who will become a brother next year, is convinced that God selected him: "I was as much chosen as

I had a choice. I was called to this life. You have to put stock on that calling or you would not get by."

From the Dublin seaside suburb of Howth, Mr Murphy was educated by the Brothers. He became more interested in religious life when his parents separated, went to prayer meetings and became deeply involved, with the support of his family.

Edmund Rice, a businessman who relinquished his great wealth to educate poor children and create a more just society, started his first school in 1803 in Waterford, home of his wife who died in 1789, leaving him with their handicapped daughter.

The Catholic Church gradually wrested control of the Christian Brothers and by the middle of the 19th century the schools were used by the Church as a way of fighting British plans for a non-sectarian primary school system. The poor were pushed aside and the schools became vehicles for educating the middle and lower-middle classes.

Corporal punishment became commonplace and allegations of sexual abuse by the brothers have been reported in recent years.

The schools also fanned the flames of Irish Republicanism in the late 19th century. Eamon De Valera, who headed the first Dail, or parliament, in 1919, said Ireland owed more to the Christian Brothers than it would probably ever realise. "I am an individual who owes practically everything to the Christian Brothers," De Valera once said.

Mr Murphy wants to bring the Christian Brothers back to the ideals upheld by Edmund Rice, who was beatified by the Pope in Rome yesterday morning. The Brothers have campaigned for 85 years to have their founder beatified and given the title "Blessed". Most of the brothers went to witness the ceremony and 250,000 Irish people are thought to have watched the beatification on television.

Pope's surgery, page 15

Royal alarm at books on Duchess

By ALAN HAMILTON

BUCKINGHAM Palace is becoming increasingly concerned that a rash of books by and about the Duchess of York could further damage the monarchy's image.

The Queen's senior advisers and the Duke of York in particular, are deeply dismayed at the publication, and serialisation in the *Daily Mirror* of a book of intimate disclosures written by Vasso Kortsis, the duchess's Greek-born former "psychic guru" which details the duchess's alleged sexual infidelities.

A royal source said: "There is concern at the damage that has been done: books like this do no one any good, and they especially do the Duke of York no good."

Another book, by her former American confidant Alan Starkie, will go ahead after the Duchess withdrew last week from a court action aimed at preventing its publication. The Duchess's autobiography is due to be published by Simon and Schuster next month.

Bookie's betting slip loses £250,000

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BUSINESSMAN who won more than £250,000 with the bet of a lifetime has been told he won't get a penny because the bookmaker forgot to film it.

Terry O'Callaghan's £54,500 stake on an accumulator for four soccer matches won him £250,200 with High Street bookmaker Coral.

But Coral is refusing to pay out because its shop manager didn't photograph the bet on a special camera. The company, one of Britain's big three bookmakers, yesterday confirmed it wanted to interview shop manager Ron Chivers, who is on sick leave.

Mr O'Callaghan, 52, of Cardiff, said: "This is a disgrace — as far as I'm concerned they are robbing me of £250,000. I did everything properly. How they can refuse to pay up because their own staff got it wrong is beyond me. They are using the rules to suit them to wriggle out of paying me my winnings."

"Coral hasn't even asked me to see its senior managers to find out what happened."

When I worked out how much I'd won I thought I was on easy street and took my wife Penny out for a champagne meal to celebrate. I was on Cloud Nine until I went to the betting shop to get my money and they said they weren't going to pay out.

"When they told me the bet wasn't on the microfilm from the cameras I thought somebody was trying to wind me up. I've got my betting slip and it has been stamped in the proper way." He has refused to accept Coral's offer to return his stake. "I'm not accepting anything less than what they owe me," he said.

Coral yesterday confirmed it is investigating Mr O'Callaghan's win and that Mr Chivers has gone on sick leave. A spokeswoman said: "For reasons we have not been able to establish, the betting slip was not photographed, although the camera was working properly. We reserve the right to declare void any betting slip with which we are not satisfied and will not be making a payment."

New generation of music lovers turn on to traditional sound of a vinyl revival

By CAROL MIDDLEY

THE vinyl record is following in the footsteps of pop music by making a comeback. Long after being written off by CD enthusiasts, vinyl is enjoying a revival thanks to the popularity of dance music and Sixties-influenced bands such as Oasis.

Increasing numbers of bands are insisting on having albums released on vinyl as well as on CD and cassette. Dance DJs are helping to keep vinyl from extinction by continuing to "mix" tracks, a technique which cannot yet be performed with CDs.

Worldwide sales of vinyl discs have recently doubled from 2 per cent of the market to 4 per cent. David Hughes, director of corporate affairs for EMI, the only major record company that still has a vinyl pressing factory, said many of its leading artists, such as the Pet Shop Boys and Radiohead, wanted their work on vinyl. "There is an ongoing passion for

vinyl and it is hugely collectable," he said.

"There is an interest and a liking for the sound it produces. Sales are vibrant for 12-inch and seven-inch singles but a lot of big-selling bands want their albums to be on vinyl, too. We recently moved our vinyl factory and that would have been a golden opportunity to knock it on the head if we had wanted to, but we didn't. People say it is dead but it won't lie down."

A vinyl seven-inch single costs about 99p while a CD single can cost more than £4, making vinyl a good choice for hard-up teenagers. Katrina House, of the UFO Music store in London, said: "We sell more vinyl than CD. We do a lot of memorabilia and all the indie-type bands have everything released on vinyl. It is a lot prettier, as well: you have coloured vinyl and nice covers which people like to collect."

Mo's Music Machine, one of seven vinyl pressing factories in Britain, pro-

duces about 15 million, mainly dance, records a year which are sold around the world, particularly in America. Lee Muspratt, a buyer for the east London based company, said: "We are working to full capacity at the moment. A lot of major record stores, such as HMV, have started restocking vinyl again."

Jonathan Rees, head of rock and pop for HMV, said: "It is very fashion-led at the moment. Bands like Cast and Oasis have boosted the trend for vinyl; there is a kind of Sixties mystique about it." Dave Pearce, a Radio 1 disc jockey, said vinyl was still preferred by most DJs.

Jack Dinsdale, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Dundee, said that vinyl sound was still superior to CD, with greater subtlety. "When CDs were introduced in 1983 there was a lot of commercial hype but now people are disenchanted. Classical music sounds better on vinyl, and happily there are quite a few young people buying classical, not just the grey oldies."

WINNER OF TWO INTERNATIONAL GOLD MEDALS (8)

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مكتبة من الأصول

£16m puts Britain's walkers on open road

ENGLAND'S footpaths and bridleways are in better condition than they have been for decades, according to a survey.

The Countryside Commission, which advises the Government on land use, said there had been a great improvement since its last study eight years ago. A claim dismissed as "far too complacent" by the Ramblers' Association.

Kate Ashbrook, the ramblers' chairman, said: "The commission counts as acceptable some 17,000 miles of paths which can only be used with some inconvenience. To imply those are properly maintained is nonsense."

There are 105,000 miles of rights of way in England, of which footpaths account for 82,000, bridleways 18,000, roads used as public paths 3,000 and byways 1,860, the commission estimates.

This is 12,400 miles fewer than were measured in 1988, but the latest count, based on a survey in 1994 of 299 randomly selected areas, is considered more accurate.

The survey found that 90 per cent of paths were usable, compared with 68 per cent in 1988. Sixty-eight per cent were easy to find, although only 42 per cent (34 per cent in 1988) were signposted where they left the road.

Walkers found that 87 per cent of stiles, gates and bridges were satisfactory and that they had a better than one in two chance of completing a two-mile walk without meeting an obstacle. In 1988 the chance was only one in three.

Richard Simmonds, chairman of the commission, which has spent £16 million over eight years on improving rights of way, said the findings represented "a major improvement", but he admitted the target of having all rights of way legally defined and unblocked by the end of the century would not be met.

More than 2,000 volunteers took part in the survey on foot and horseback, by bicycle and motorcycle and in horse-drawn carriages and four-wheel-drive vehicles. They found 88 per cent of routes accurately represented on Ordnance Survey pathfinder maps (6 per cent up in 1988).

'Tory candidate doesn't stand a chance, farmers feel so betrayed'

Wives take up cudgels in BSE row

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

SHEDDING their traditionally self-effacing image, farmers' wives are emerging as the shock troops of the countryside as anger grows over the Government's handling of the "mad cow" crisis.

Women were prominent in the crowd that jostled and jeered Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, after he refused to address them at a dairy show in Devon last week. They have also taken the lead in organising what is expected to be a large turn-out of farmers at the Tory party conference in Bournemouth tomorrow: they will warn the Government it is losing the votes of thousands of loyal rural supporters.

In the van of the swelling protest is Sandy Loud, 50, a dairy farmer's wife from Northdown Farm at Lew-down, near Launceston, a co-founder of the Somerset, Devon and Cornwall Network, which she runs with three other farmers' wives and a farmer's daughter. On the day before she confronted Mr Hogg, Mrs Loud had led a group of 80 farmers who ambushed his Cabinet colleague Roger Freeman at a private meeting with slaughtermen and cattle renderers at Honiton, shouting him down with cries of "cheat", "traitor" and "Roger the Dodger".

Mrs Loud said: "In fairness, Mr Freeman at least had the guts to listen to us and to address some of our concerns. Mr Hogg did not even have the courtesy to come out and talk to us."

At the weekend, the group faxed a letter to the Prime Minister, calling on him to



Making their feelings on the beef crisis plain: left to right, Ruth Burrow (kneeling), Pat Bird, Mary Down, Sandy Loud and Jane Down

speaking personally to the farmers at Bournemouth. "Farmers are facing the biggest crisis this country has ever seen in its agricultural history, instigated by your Government."

The other members of Mrs Loud's campaign group, all in dairy farming, are Ruth Burrow, of Rill Farm at Ottery St Mary in Devon, Pat Bird of Middle Crackington Farm at Crackington Haven in Cornwall, and Jane Down and her

mother, Mary, of Marshwood Farm at Chard in Somerset.

"It started soon after the Government's announcement last March that BSE might have passed to humans," Mrs Loud said. "Ruth got in touch after seeing me being interviewed on television. We decided there was a role for us to play because our husbands were so tied up in running our farms."

The Louds' constituency is

Devon West and Torridge, whose sitting MP, Emma Nicholson, defected to the Liberal Democrats. "The Tories have got a brilliant young prospective candidate but the poor chap doesn't stand a chance because farmers feel so betrayed by this Government," she said.

Over at Ottery St Mary, Mrs Burrow said the last straw was the decision by the European Union at the end of

last month to cut 10 per cent from the compensation paid to farmers for cattle that have to be culled and burnt. "Mr Hogg actually went to the EU and asked for the cut just to save the Treasury money," she said. "This was a kick in the teeth for farmers still saddled with thousands of unsaleable over-age cattle because of the Government's own ineptness in administering the cull."

At the 300-acre Marshwood

Finalist across with four down

By BRIAN GREER
CROSSWORD EDITOR

THE National Final of The Times Crossword Championship was won in London on Saturday by John Henderson, a psychology lecturer from Finchley, north London, on his fourth appearance in the final. Mr Henderson, 32, completed all four puzzles correctly in an average time of nine minutes.

Runner-up in a very close contest was Alastair Sutherland, 60, a retired GP from Glasgow, who completed the puzzles correctly in an average time of under ten minutes. Fractionally slower in third place was Michael Trollope, 50, a chemical engineer from Worthing, West Sussex.

The inaugural pairs event, which proved an extremely popular innovation in this year's championship, was won by Tony Esau, 50, a schoolmaster, and Peter Fowler, 53, a computer consultant, both from Wokingham. Their average solution time was under 18 minutes. Runners-up were Andrew Bull, 23, and Paul Collacott, 39, a partnership of civil servants from Cheltenham.

The winners were presented with engraved trophies in Edinburgh Crystal by James MacMannus, managing editor of The Times, who recalled the stormy introduction of the crossword into The Times in 1930, and the notorious Provost of Eton who liked to time his breakfast egg by solving The Times crossword (and didn't like it hard-boiled).

Top-placed competitors in the event, sponsored by Aberlour pure Highland single malt whisky, were presented with bottles of the sponsor's product, as were successful members of the audience who competed simultaneously with the finalists.

Vegetarians claim best year for converting meat eaters

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

UP TO a million people turned vegetarian after the Government's disclosure in March of a possible link between BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, it was claimed yesterday.

The Vegetarian Society, which will be 150 years old next year, also said it had increased its membership this year by 5 per cent to 20,000.

Ray Drake, the society's chairman,

said in its annual report: "The year to May 31, 1996, saw what was probably the largest single conversion of people to vegetarianism in history." The claim was based on a poll by Gallup in April which found 7 per cent of the population, about four million people, professing to be vegetarian, compared with 5 per cent before the announcement on "mad cow" disease on March 20.

Tina Fox, the society's chief executive, said that after the announcement, "the number of telephone calls and written inquiries went up from a normal level of about 500 a week to several thousand."

"We think BSE will have a lasting effect, particularly as people were already turning away from beef because of research linking red meat to cancer and heart disease."

She added: "More companies are taking account of vegetarianism.

Birds Eye, for example, recently launched a meat-free range of products on the basis of market research showing that 41 per cent of consumers are reducing meat eating."

"It is true that vegetarians are still dominated by women and young people but as women still do most of the shopping they can have a disproportionate impact."

The Meat and Livestock Commission, the government quango which

promotes meat eating, conceded that beef consumption was still 18 per cent down on the pre-March level, but said many people had switched to other meats such as lamb and pork.

A spokesman said: "Overall consumption of meat has not changed much over the decades and is still around 63kg a head a year, about the same as 30 years ago." He added that many people claiming to be vegetarians ate meat "from time to time".

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Tories' division on war leader's Euro-scepticism traced to wine-stained piece of paper

Churchill's doodles lead Europe debate round in circles

By ALAN HAMILTON

A WINE-STAINED sheet of paper, rediscovered after 40 years at the back of a drawer, may offer a clue as to whether Sir Winston Churchill was a Euro-sceptic.

Many of man's greatest ideas are born as doodles on the back of an envelope. Churchill, explaining his vision of Britain's position in a postwar world to a fellow dinner guest, drew three interlocking circles representing respectively the British Empire, a united Europe and the English-speaking world. The area of overlap in the centre was Britain.

What Churchill really meant has exacerbated a row between Tory Cabinet ministers and the party's elder statesmen. In a speech last month to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Churchill's call in Zurich for a united Europe, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, portrayed him as a Euro-sceptic. "We did not follow exactly Churchill's call for a United States of Europe. Nor is it the case that Churchill expected or wanted Britain to be part of a such a united states, if it was created," Mr Rifkind said.

The speech drew a swift response from Sir Edward Heath, rejecting the notion of Churchill as Euro-sceptic. "I am sure Churchill would not favour a policy that enabled Britain to be at the heart of the



Churchill: dry run for the party conference

European Union," Sir Edward wrote.

Experts are in no doubt that the dinner-table doodle of Britain's place in a postwar world is genuine, and that the scrawled initials in each circle are in Churchill's own hand. It is thought to have been drawn for the benefit of Cuthbert Orde, a prominent wartime artist noted for his paintings of RAF fighter pilots who also executed portraits of wartime leaders, including Churchill.

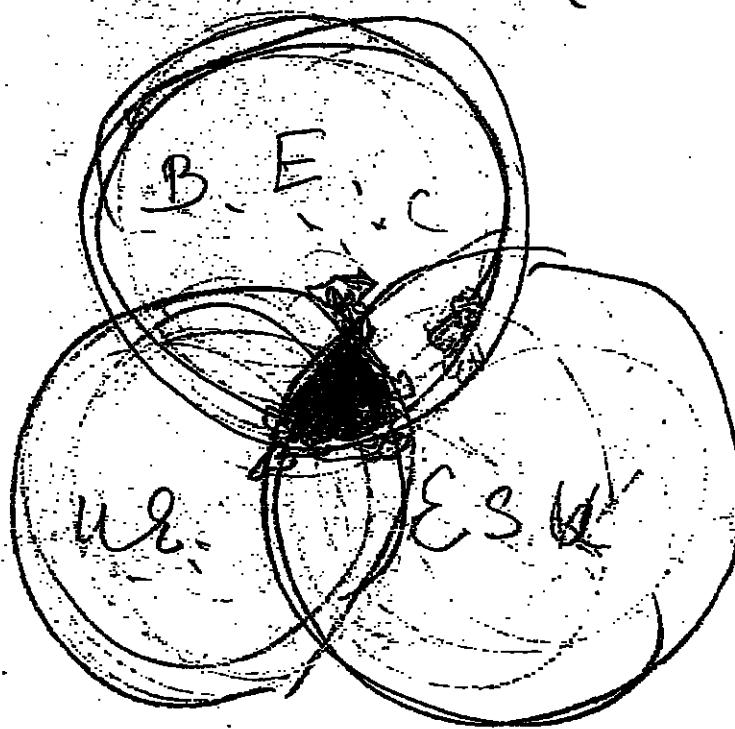
Beneath the drawing is an inscription in another hand, assumed to be that of Orde: "Drawn by Mr Churchill at Hever Castle on the 5th of June 1948, to illustrate England's position in the world-to-be, 'if we are worthy'." Churchill was a frequent visitor to Hever, home of the Astor family, who then owned *The Times* and who were near

neighbours of his at Chartwell. It was one of his favourite spots for painting.

The drawing was given by Orde in 1956 to Lady Dundas, whose husband Group Captain Sir Hugh Dundas, now dead, was a noted wartime Spitfire pilot painted by Orde. "Orde was doing a portrait of our six-year-old son at the time, and he just gave me this scribble as a memento. I have kept it in a drawer ever since," Lady Dundas said yesterday. She retrieved it during the recent political controversy as to what Churchill's views on a united Europe might have been today, and showed it to *The Times*.

As Sir Martin Gilbert, Churchill's biographer, explains below, the drawing was a kind of simplified dry-run in preparation for that October's Tory party conference at Llandudno. It is sterile to wonder what Churchill's stance on Europe would have been today — the man died in 1965. Sir Martin said yesterday. "But he was not by nature a sceptical person, he was a visionary. His aim at the time was to get Europe together again after its division by the war. He definitely believed that the nations of Europe should work together. The particular issue of the time was that France and Germany should sit down together. In the end he was a believer in ultimate world government."

B.E. = British Empire
U.E. = United Europe
E.S.W. = English Speaking World (about 200 millions)



Drawn by Mr Churchill in Hever Castle on 5th June 1948 to illustrate England's position in the world-to-be 'if we are worthy'

Churchill's 1948 doodle, with notes from the artist Cuthbert Orde explaining what the three circles signified

'We are with Europe but not of it, linked but not comprised'

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S vision of the "three great circles among the free nations and democracies" had Britain as a central and linking factor. Churchill told the 1948 Tory party conference in Llandudno: "You will see that we are the only country which has a great part in every one of them. We stand, in fact, at the very point of junction." Britain, he said, positioned as it was at the "centre of the seaways and perhaps of the airways also", had the opportunity to join the circles. He hoped that the country would "rise to the occasion in the years to come".

In 1933, Churchill had created another doodle that is



Winston Churchill saw a united Europe with Britain acting as the link to the world's free nations, Martin Gilbert writes

perhaps not irrelevant to the single European currency debate. At dinner with one of President Roosevelt's sons, he called for a piece of paper, drew on it, and handed it to the son, asking him to take it to his father. "Tell him this must be the currency of the future," it showed the pound and dollar signs intertwined.

Churchill always looked to

Europe to act collectively, and sensibly, if guided by Britain. In July 1914 he proposed a European summit to pull back from the brink of war. After the defeat of Germany in 1918 he proposed "new relations, new co-operation with Germany in the further reconstruction and rebuilding of Europe". In his "three great circles speech", Churchill en-

visaged a future for Europe as "the majestic centre of world security and later on of world co-operation, and finally of world government".

Speaking in Zurich in 1946, Churchill had urged France and Germany to take the lead in creating what he called a continental United States of Europe, whose right "to live and shine" would be championed by Britain, the British Commonwealth, the United States, "and I trust Soviet Russia — for then indeed all would be well". In 1948, Churchill looked forward to what he called "the lowering and melting down of barriers of all kinds between countries, the growing sense of being a 'good

European". We hope that all these will be the final, eventual and irresistible solvents of the difficulties which now condemn Europe to misery.

When he spoke to the Council of the European Movement in Brussels in 1949, he gave his support to a European Court of Human Rights. In a speech in Brussels in 1949 he stated that the supporters of a united Europe could not "rest content" with the division of Europe into two parts — "the free and the unfree". And he gave, as the slogan to follow: "The Europe we seek to unite is all Europe."

Churchill's vision was of a Europe where west and east were united in a single multi-

national structure, with Britain, the United States and if possible a non-confrontational Russia, as sponsors and guarantors of European security. In a newspaper article in 1938 he wrote of Britain: "We are linked but not comprised. We are interested and associated, but not absorbed."

Where did Churchill stand on the question of a united Europe and sovereignty? Forty-eight years ago, as a co-President of the United Europe Movement, he commented about the plan for European federation: "It is said with truth that this involves some sacrifice or merger of national sovereignty. But

it is also possible and not less agreeable to regard it as the gradual assumption by all the nations concerned of that larger sovereignty which can also protect their diverse and distinctive customs and characteristics and their national traditions, all of which under totalitarian systems, whether Nazi, Fascist or Communist, would certainly be blotted out for ever."

This "larger sovereignty" is perhaps where we now stand, or will soon.

Sir Martin Gilbert was appointed Churchill's official biographer in 1968 and is author of the definitive eight-volume account of his life.

Eden's medicine cabinet reveals a curious choice of sedative

THE kindly have attributed allegedly unpredictable and irascible behaviour by Sir Anthony Eden while Prime Minister to a combination of the stress of coping with the Suez emergency and bouts of acute liver disease.

Liver disease can have a marked effect on personality. Less charitable historians, however, have blamed amphetamines for Eden's unpredictability. It was rumoured that he took stimulants by day to give him the confidence to face an increasingly hostile world, and sedatives at night to counteract the sleep-de-

stroying effect of the amphetamines.

Chips Channon's diary makes it clear that before the 1939 war amphetamines were not regarded with distrust, and it is quite possible that Eden had a supply that he used occasionally. Even in the 1950s amphetamines were readily prescribed.

It is reported that Lady Avon, Eden's widow, is keen to remove this slur on his memory. His medical records have been destroyed but his two regular doctors were not the type to hand out stimulants wantonly. Lady Avon



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

recalls that Eden did not take amphetamines until after the Suez crisis, when he was no longer in effective charge. She also remembers that the household sleeping pills were Sparine, but so far as her recollection goes it was she,

rather than her husband, who made use of them.

Sparine (promazine hydrochloride) was a most unusual choice for night-time sedation in a well-orientated patient. The drug's primary role is as a major tranquilliser to calm

agitated and disturbed patients. It is closely related to Largactil, the sedative often used in psychiatric units.

Sparine's slightly different formulation was supposed to make it less toxic to the liver, which is a problem with Largactil. The prescription of Sparine could thus accord with the action of good doctors who wanted to spare Eden more liver damage but also wanted to ensure that he got a good night's sleep.

It is not the type of sedation that would be given to patients unless they were severely agitated, disturbed

probably to the point of being irrational, although it would not be given to those suffering from a long-term psychosis.

No doctor would have prescribed Sparine to a patient with liver damage — because although less toxic than Largactil it does exacerbate liver disease — unless controlling their behaviour had become the prime objective of treatment. The use of Sparine provides support for reports of Eden's irrational behaviour at the time of Suez but does not, of course, suggest that this was necessarily made worse by amphetamines.



Eden on the night of his resignation in 1957

Hepatitis victims lost fight for payment

Haemophiliacs who contracted hepatitis C from infected blood during NHS treatment will not receive compensation. The Department of Health has told campaigners it was refusing to pay because the treatment was not negligent.

About 3,100 people are known to have been affected during the 1980s. It is estimated that 60 people have died after being exposed to the virus, which causes cirrhosis of the liver and can lead to cancer. Many others have been left seriously ill.

Police injured

Seven police officers were injured as they tried to control a disturbance involving more than 100 people outside a restaurant in Runcorn, Cheshire. One was slashed with a craft knife. Five men were arrested.

Veterans' plea

Five Saskatchewan Indians who served in the Second World War have flown to London to urge opposition to European Union plans to ban fur imports. The Indians want the EU to help to develop a humane trapping standard.

Jet skier killed

A 24-year-old jet skier died after his machine hit a speedboat on Pick Mere lake, Cheshire. The man, who has not been named, died in hospital in Manchester. The boat was towing a water skier at the time of the accident.

Glaring problem

The Civil Aviation Authority is to investigate claims by air traffic controllers at Jersey airport that they are being dazzled by sunlight reflecting off the glass roof of a £23 million departure hall due to open next spring.

Waterfall death

A woman fell 80ft to her death from the top of a waterfall while walking with friends. Police said Christine McCann, 48, of Fulwood, Lancashire, appeared to have strayed from a path at Thornton Force in the Yorkshire Dales.

Thief's mistake

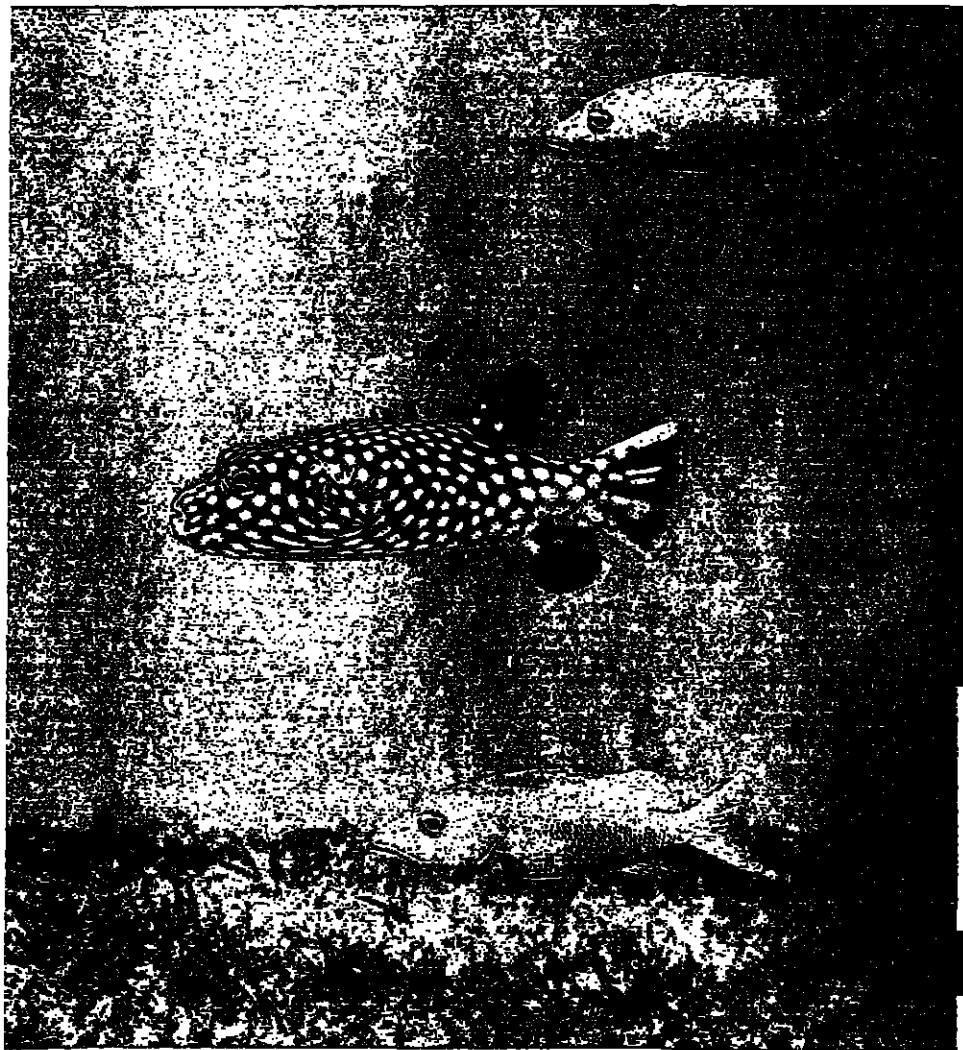
A thief who stole a radio microphone during filming of the *Antiques Road Show* at Bebington, Merseyside, was caught when he failed to realise that the £2,000 mic was switched on. He was tracked by a sound engineer.

Climber falls

A climber died after falling 300ft from Aonach Eagach, a narrow mountain ridge in the Scottish Highlands. The body of Euan Minto, 26, from Vauxhall, south London, was recovered by Glencoe mountain rescue team.

Early arrivals

Thousands of pink-footed geese, driven from their nesting sites by a volcanic eruption in Iceland, have arrived in northern Britain almost three months early. Most have landed at the Martin Mere nature reserve near Southampton.



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"Source: TeleFuture Futures, Henley Centre 1995. "Source: Telebusiness Qualitative Research, Henley Centre 1994.

Smoke Labour out with Referendum Bill before the election, Tebbit tells Major

In 1986 Lord Tebbit, then Tory chairman, masterminded a conference that transformed the Government's fortunes, leading to a big election victory. The opportunity is there today, he tells Peter Riddell and Philip Webster

John Major and Tony Blair will be forced to declare their hand on a single European currency before the election — or else they will be "smoked out" during the campaign. So argues Norman Tebbit, speaking as much as an analyst as a politician. Although still a fierce combatant when he wants to be, Lord Tebbit was in reflective and occasionally mischievous mood when he talked to us at St Ermin's Hotel, that London centre of political intrigue.

On the eve of the Conservative Party conference, Lord Tebbit argues that the Prime Minister should play to his strengths in the coming campaign. These are "not as a great platform speaker, but in face-to-face encounters". He believes Mr Blair's weaknesses have begun to show and "expose him a little more than would have been the case six months ago. Blackpool had just a little perfume of Sheffield [Labour's triumphalist rally during the 1992 election campaign] about it."

Contrary to the firm intention expressed by Mr Major in *The Times* on Saturday to leave all options open on a single currency, Lord Tebbit does not see "how either party is going to get through the campaign saying they have not made up their mind whether to enter in the first wave".

"Interviewers will say to both Mr Major and Mr Blair that it is clear if you are Prime Minister you will have to prepare legislation to enable us to enter a single currency within six weeks of polling day. So what is it that you are going to discover in these six weeks that will decide you on that issue? It will be difficult for either party to sit on the fence without coming clean. The danger is that Labour sees that dilemma and does the electorally popular thing."

The Government, he suggested, should try to upstage Labour by declaring in this autumn's Queen's Speech that it intends to introduce a Bill before the election for a referendum on a single currency. It would be put on the statute book for use only if a Cabinet decided to recommend entry to the single currency, but it would put Labour on the spot. They would be unable to vote the Bill down.

Lord Tebbit suggests that Britain might take the leadership of the "outs" — the countries that stay outside any European monetary union. Even if Britain publicly ruled out joining, he claims, "there is nothing in the [Maastricht] treaty which would allow us to be pushed out of the discussions. You are not required to be a member of the first wave, or to be a member at any time, to be included in the negotiations on how you set it up."

Ken Clarke had something

when he said it was pathetic not to be able to decide. The grandees have something when they said Britain should lead. But you cannot lead from a position of saying 'I have not made up my mind'."

Lord Tebbit would like participation to be permanently ruled out on constitutional and democratic reasons. "I would be prepared, for the purposes of the next election, to take part in the first wave, which is the same as saying we would not enter."

He believes that only the opposition of a handful of Cabinet ministers is preventing a commitment against entry in the next Parliament. That would be electorally attractive. Should Mr Major be prepared to face the risk of resignations? Lord Tebbit says he would regard the departure of Mr Clarke as "a great loss. Not too many members of the present administration are household names or immediately recognisable in the street."

"It is a safe bet that if I walked through a shopping centre with a member of the Cabinet I would have been recognised by more people than the Cabinet member. To lose Ken in that sense would be a tragedy because he is such a good performer. I would be enormously sad. But if we are going to get smoked out during the campaign then surely the Cabinet has to make a decision; surely every member of the Cabinet has to decide his position on that."

Lord Tebbit has sympathy with Mr Clarke's warnings over tax. Whether people believe tax cuts are real and could not subsequently be reversed will depend on the presentation of his spending plans. If he were able to announce John Redwood's [proposed] £3 billion or £4



Lord Tebbit thinks the public have become "slightly bored" by Tories of his and Michael Heseltine's vintage. Photograph: Peter Nicholls

Cabinet as rather dull. "A good many people are saying these Tory people are boring. They've been around a long time. Perhaps on the whole they're not quite as colourful as in 1986-87."

With a sly dig at Michael Heseltine, he says: "Michael and I are ten years older. The public are slightly bored with

them to enliven themselves. They need "a sense of direction and to avoid giving the impression of merely marking time."

The Tories today return to Bournemouth, where ten years ago they held one of their most successful pre-election conferences, masterminded by Lord Tebbit when

policies are "broadly the same but would be implemented more skilfully. There are not the same enormous differences."

However, he adds, with a twinkle: "All swords in politics are doubled-edged, aren't they? It's up to us to exploit the fact that Labour is no longer proposing radical changes

military advice to attack at a place where there is a division of command. That is usually the weakest point. At the moment, it is the junction between Mr Blair and his party." The Tories, he suggests, need to be careful about attacking Mr Blair himself, but there is scope to focus on his relations with the party

money, and at another level they're told we're going to be stiff and starchy about this because there isn't any more money."

Lord Tebbit identifies three areas where the Tories need to do more and have a different approach to Labour. "By common consent our welfare structure is not a solution to the problem of poverty. It is part of the problem. Yet we have not been doing any of the radical thinking we should have been. Peter Lilley has been doing a good job of managing within the existing structure. We have to be as radical in the approach to welfare as we became in our approach to nationalised industries. Has the welfare system undermined the family?"

"We also need to redefine the relationship between national and local government. It is commonly alleged that the Government has been centralising and taking power away. Sooner or later we have to move away from concepts like rate-capping and put the responsibility on those who are in authority. Rate-capping helps local councils escape responsibility."

William Rees-Mogg, Matthew Parris, and Peter Riddell, page 22 Letters, page 23

A failed single currency would be a disaster for Britain as well as Europe, says John Major

We must not allow EMU to be fudged

When we consider the impact of a failed single currency on the British economy, it is not only the immediate economic damage that we must consider, but also the long-term damage to the confidence of the British people in the Government. The Government must not allow the EMU to be fudged. It must be clear to the British people that the Government is committed to the EMU and that it will not be fudged. The Government must not allow the EMU to be fudged. It must be clear to the British people that the Government is committed to the EMU and that it will not be fudged.



Despite the arguments advanced by the Prime Minister in Saturday's *Times*, Lord Tebbit wonders how he and Tony Blair will get through the forthcoming general election campaign without saying whether Britain should be among the first wave to enter a European single currency



Lord Tebbit wonders how he and Tony Blair will get through the forthcoming general election campaign without saying whether Britain should be among the first wave to enter a European single currency

billion spending cuts, that would make tax cuts realistic and sensible. If, on the other hand, there is a substantial borrowing requirement, he has to be careful about how he offers tax cuts. My preference has been for reducing expenditure as a way to tax cuts."

Lord Tebbit sees the present

us and perhaps we do not have that same bite and freshness that we had ten years ago. The team is not fresh to the public. I would certainly not advise the Prime Minister to dismiss half his Cabinet. It would be highly dangerous from every point of view. He has to encourage

he was party chairman. He acknowledges that the challenge is different now. In 1986-87, Labour was "offering a change, offering radically different policies". And the Tories responded by presenting themselves as the party of continuous change. But now, Labour's stance is to say its

from our policies." When we suggest that it is a case of "Tory measures, Whig men", he agrees and suggests, "If you want Tory measures, you're safer to vote for Tories. These people [Labour] are Johnny-come-latelys."

Lord Tebbit sees an opportunity. "It is always good

and over the expectations of those who might vote Labour and activists. "If health service workers are not going to be offered big pay rises why should they be voting Labour? What's the inducement? I suspect that at one level they're being told 'nod, nod, wink, wink, you'll get the

My ally Clarke will stay at No 11, says PM

By Philip Webster
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Prime Minister bluntly rejected demands from the Tory Right for Kenneth Clarke to be sacked to help the party's election prospects.

Right-wing Conservatives have been arguing that with a new Chancellor the Government could announce big tax cuts in the Budget and rule out joining a single currency during the next Parliament.

Interviewed on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, John Major said: "Ken Clarke is a very close ally of mine. He's a very old and long-standing friend of mine. He's also an excellent Chancellor. He's produced the best economy and the best economic prospects we have had in this country for a very long time indeed. Ken Clarke is going to stay as Chancellor of the Exchequer."

Mr Major strongly defended his wait-and-see policy on the single currency, saying that Britain could stay in negotiating up to the "59th minute of the last hour". Britain would be affected by the single currency, whether or not we joined, he said. "If the single currency failed, it would make the failure of the exchange-rate mechanism look like a teddy bears picnic. The fanciful belief that we could say 'no', sit on the sidelines and there would be no side-effects for the UK simply isn't true."

"We will stay in those negotiations because it is in Britain's national interest that Britain's voice is represented in those negotiations, because whether in the event we go into a single currency, or stay out, our interests will be affected. So there's no point in pushing. We are staying in the negotiations, and I just hope colleagues will accept that."

Explaining that, having grown up in a Labour area, he understood "traditional Labour" better than many Tories did, Mr Major said that today Labour seemed to be "a party that has lost its soul". People knew that Labour wanted to be in power and that they would do anything to get there. "But what do they stand for these days?" One knew where Labour was in the past. "For all its failures it had many virtues. You knew what the Labour Party cared for. It didn't exist by soundbites... it may have been bonkers, it often was, but they said 'this is what we believe'."

Behind the "smiling public face" of Labour there were "the dirty tricks... while one thing is being said front of house by the Labour leadership, quite different things are being said and done by those who wish to put a particular slant on the news behind them." Any Labour member who spoke out of turn, like "poor Clare Short", had to issue a retraction.

He dismissed newspaper reports that a group of left-wing Tories were considering co-operating with Labour in the event of the Tories being taken over by a Euro-sceptic leader after an election defeat, as "utter rubbish".

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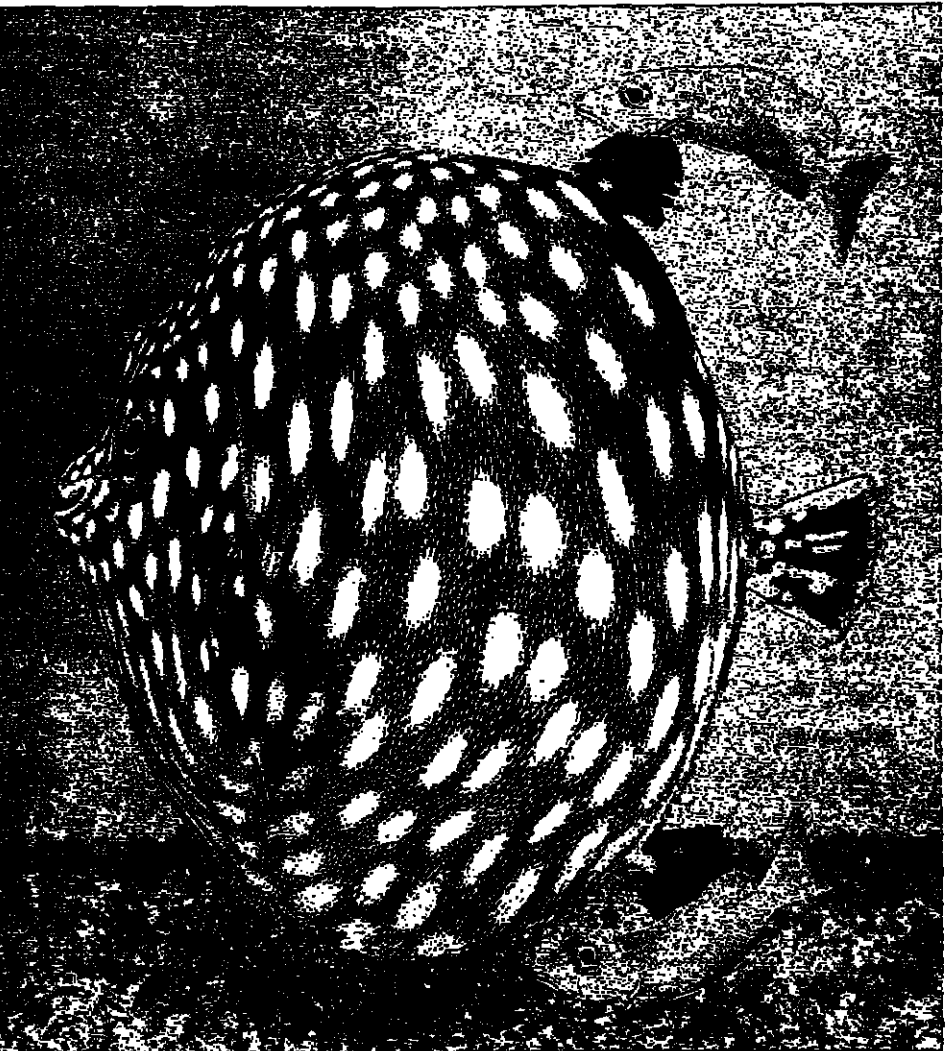
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Confidential report condemns £6bn waterway scheme as deep slash across the nation's fabric

Plan for English 'Panama canal' to be scrutinised

By IAN MURRAY



Sir George welcomed "exciting project"

A £6 BILLION plan to slice England in two with a canal that would rival the Panama as an engineering feat will be considered in earnest this week. The largest civil engineering scheme since the Channel Tunnel is intended to create 300,000 jobs and bring prosperity to one of Britain's most economically depressed regions.

The project, which would link Carlisle to Newcastle upon Tyne along a 70-mile route, would be linked with a new road forming a barrage across Morecambe Bay and the Solway Firth, two of the country's most important habitats for water birds.

The idea for a canal along a similar route was first suggested 200 years ago but the arrival of the steam age made it uneconomical. The consortium planning the new canal believe that it can provide cheaper and more environmentally friendly transport than rail or road. Environmental groups, however, describe it as a threat to one of the last remote and unspoiled areas in England.

The scheme is the brainchild of Dennis Russell, 60, a retired Manchester engineer, who was sufficiently encouraged by a chat he had about it with John Major to forward his ideas for consideration to Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary. Sir George wrote back thanking him for sending in the "exciting project" and Mr Russell set about forming a consortium to turn his ideas into reality.

AMEC Civil Engineering agreed to join the project. "We have been very encouraged by the public response to the idea," the company said. "There is no firm proposal and we have yet to carry out a feasibility study to see if it is worth carrying out a full feasibility study, but reactions so far have been fairly positive." Outline proposals for cutting the 40ft deep water-

way across the Pennines, up to 300yd wide, were studied last week by chief executives of the Northern England Assembly of Local Authorities. They noted the report and sent it forward to a meeting of assembly council leaders on Thursday.

"They decided this was one for the politicians to consider," Neil Meacham, the assembly's assistant secretary, said. "There is a resistance to using roads in the region, but we would have to consider whether there would be enough trade to justify such an enormous project."

Cumbria County Council will be the first to receive full details of the project. On October 24 the council's economy and environment committee is to be given the outline plans by Mr Russell and his consortium, which also includes the Water Research Centre in Swindon, Hyder Consultants of Guildford, and Multi Design Consultants of Stockport.

Bill Minto, the council leader, is strongly supporting the idea. "The country would have stood still for the past two centuries if everyone had ridiculed grand ideas," he said. He believes the canal will bring jobs, prosperity and tourists to the region. Environmental groups see the

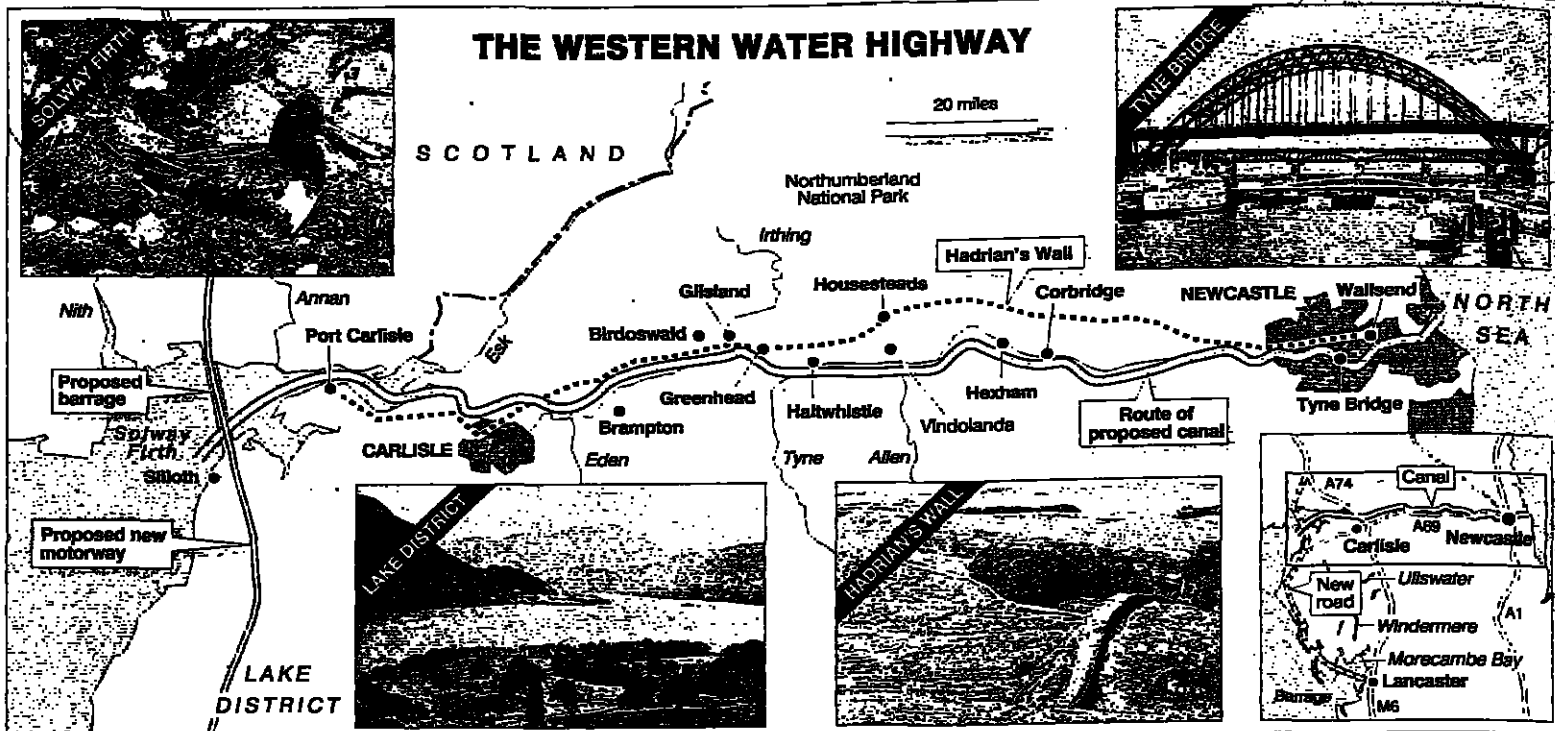
canal as a threat to some of the most unspoiled stretches of English countryside, destroying the habitat of birds, fishes and rare wildlife, ruining the intricate system of rivers draining the Pennines. The route would go through the World Heritage Site around Hadrian's Wall and turn Ullswater and Windermere into reservoirs.

Mr Russell's preliminary report foresees the canal as a main artery of traffic, able to handle barges carrying 15,000 tonnes of cargo on a shortcut route from the Irish Sea to the Continent. A new generation of roll-on, roll-off semi-submersible ferries with deep draught for oceans and shallow draught for waterways would allow cargoes to be transported throughout a linked canal system all over Britain.

The only large structure he believes would need to be demolished is the Gateshead/Newcastle swing bridge. Other bridges, including the Tyne Bridge at Newcastle, might have to be enlarged but, he says, they already need replacing.

Although the plans have yet to be published, environmental groups are lining up to condemn them. A confidential report for the Environmental Agency says the scheme is "a deep slash across the fabric of England and Scotland's most environmentally and historically sensitive areas".

Around Hadrian's Wall the cut needed would be about 600ft deep for more than five miles. "Apart from the minor matter of the Wall being crossed by the channel at a couple of junctures, the impact of the world's largest building site cum open-cast mine within yards of famous forts cannot be understated," said Alistair Crowle, the RSPB's Cumbria conservation officer, said. "The whole habitat of a site which has 300,000 birds would be altered. There is no substitute place where these birds could go."



The route would be along a deep water channel linking lakes through Cumbria and Northumberland, starting at Port Carlisle, following Hadrian's Wall and the route of the A69 road passing Haltwhistle and Hexham to Newcastle and reaching the North Sea at Tynemouth



Canal building boomed until the advent of trains

Early ambitions lost out to cheaper railway

THE first plan to build a waterway across the Pennines between the Solway Firth and Tyneside was drawn up in 1794 by Ralph Dodd.

It envisaged cutting an 18-mile canal with 12 locks linking the Tyne with the Solway for a cost of £35,709. This was not considered feasible and William Jessop, one of the leading canal designers of the age, teamed up with William Chapman in 1795 to design a much more ambitious canal, 93 miles long. It would have cost £888,000 to build.

In today's terms that is equivalent to about £50 million. The cost was prohibitive and the idea was dropped until 1807 when Chapman was asked to build a canal linking Carlisle to Port Carlisle. This was finally opened in 1823, by which time rail transport was beginning to supersede canals as a popular form of moving heavy goods.

In 1830 a railway line linking Carlisle with Newcastle upon Tyne was opened at a cost of £252,488, less than a third of the estimate for building the canal along the same route. The waterway idea has been reborn because of the decline in rail traffic and the switch of freight to the roads.

Project is threat to nature, warns conservation group

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT a third of the country's rare Natterjack toads, as well as habitat for up to 260,000 wading birds, will be lost if the canal and its associated barrages, roads and reservoirs are built, according to Friends of the Earth.

The pressure group claims the scheme is on a par with some of the world's most ecologically destructive projects such as the Three Gorges Dam in China. It says the project would lead to the total destruction of two of Britain's biggest estuary habitats and would hit another two of international importance: the Solway Firth, Morecambe Bay, the Duddon estuary and the Drigg coast.

Matt Phillips of Friends of the Earth said that at least 16 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), the beauty spots which are the backbone of the network of nature conservation areas, would be destroyed or substantially damaged. These include Ryton Willows in Tyne



Natterjack toads put at risk, say ecologists

and Wear, a pond and wetlands network famous for dragonflies, and scores of others in Northumberland such as Williamston River Shingle, which has "an unusual community of metal-tolerant plants" such as spring sandwort and Alpine perny-cress.

Lambley River Shingles, on the south Tyne, is notable for narrow-leaved helleborine, and would also be devastated.

Other SSSIs under threat include Wharmley Riverside on the Tyne, home to thrift,

bladder campion and the common spotted orchid; Tyne Waters Meet, regarded as a fine site for ground beetles such as *Bembidion testaceum*; River Tyne at Ovingham, known for its geology and Close House Riverside, home to hemlock water-dropwort.

In Cumbria, SSSIs under threat include Hallsenn Moor, a noted peat and sphagnum moss bog and Maryport Harbour, where proposed improvements to the dock threaten the nationally rare yarrow or purple broom rape.

Many of the areas under threat are home to returning otters, said Mr Phillips, adding that more than 17 rivers, several of which are home to internationally important salmon and sea trout fisheries, will be affected. These include the Eden, Esk, Eamont, Gelt and March Burn. The pressure group also believes the landscape and heritage sites would be affected by the scheme.

Wife begins campaign to free Briton kidnapped in Kashmir

By STEWART TENDLER

THE wife of a Briton kidnapped 23 months ago in Kashmir is launching a national campaign to help to set him free. She will also travel to India to appeal to his captors. Julie Mangan hopes to follow the example of Jill Morrell's campaign to free John McCarthy in the Lebanon and increase public awareness of her husband Keith's captivity. He is one of a group of four men held by Al Faran Muslim militants in the Himalayan foothills.

Mr Mangan and his wife, both 34, had been married for ten years and had saved up for five of those to fund an 18-month trip around India and neighbouring countries in 1995. She last saw him as he was led away at gunpoint.

As well as Mr Mangan the armed separatists hold Paul Wells, a photography student from Blackburn; Donald Hutchings, an American; and Dirk Hassert, a German. The kidnappers threatened to kill their captives if jailed Muslim leaders were not freed, and Hans Ostro, a Norwegian, was beheaded.

Mrs Mangan said: "When Keith was first taken we just didn't know what was going on — we were working-class people suddenly thrust into the spotlight. Outside of Middlesbrough few people have heard of Keith. We want to make sure everyone realises what is going on."

There have been many ups and downs but I am convinced that Keith is still alive and refuse to believe otherwise. I have spoken with John McCarthy and Terry Waite and they have been very supportive and encouraged me to keep going."

Mrs Mangan is travelling to Kashmir in a fortnight's time. She has learned the language and will make appeals on television and radio and the BBC World Service. She hopes to prick the conscience of the kidnappers and secure Keith's release before winter sets in and the rebels make camp for months in the mountains.

MP urges progress in murder inquiry

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE people of Launceston are "frustrated and baffled" by the apparent lack of progress in the hunt for the killer of Caroline Dickinson, their MP said yesterday.

Paul Tyler is pressing Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, to ask the French authorities to disclose the extent of their inquiries into the schoolgirl's death in a hostel on a school trip to Brittany in July. Mr Tyler also wants a full statement about the progress of several other unsolved murders of British citizens in France.

The Liberal Democrat MP for Cornwall North said: "Caroline's family, her friends and colleagues at the college, and indeed the whole community here, have been incredibly patient. But they can hardly be blamed for wondering what is going on, and demanding that our own authorities should find out."

In a letter to Mr Rifkind, Mr Tyler lists other unsolved cases involving Britons killed in France. Joanna Parish, a 20-year-old student from Newnham, Gloucestershire, was raped and strangled in Burgundy in 1990; Paul Bellion and Lorraine Glasby, teachers from East Anglia, were found bound, gagged and shot in a field in 1990; Leslie Chorlton, 47, and his wife Bernadette, 30, were shot dead in the Dordogne in 1991. No one has been charged in any of these cases.

Mr Tyler is demanding that the French authorities make a full statement on the progress of their inquiries. His letter states that the community of Launceston is also demanding answers from the French authorities.

He said: "Inevitably, we are all baffled by the lack of progress and the apparent failure to act on similar incidents, before and since the Pleine Fougères tragedy. There is a feeling that our own Government must again reassert the need for a sense of urgency and priority to be demonstrated in this case."

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Dole tests character of Clinton in TV battle

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN JUST 90 minutes last night, Bob Dole attempted to transform the face of the election in a presidential debate that his advisers saw as the last best chance to reverse the Republican candidate's fortunes for next month.

Indeed the Dole campaign considered the exchange in Hartford, Connecticut, so important that all decisions about television advertising and strategy for the final month of the election were delayed until the dust settled this morning.

Although historians have agreed that debates rarely alter the views of the American electorate, Republicans said Mr Dole's focus last night on President Clinton's character and record would succeed in concentrating the minds of what is an unusually uninterested voting public.

Only too aware of Mr Clinton's speaking skills and the inability of their own candidate to project his agenda, Dole aides had contemplated a number of theatrical gestures to upset the President.

Mr Dole was said to be considering an announcement that General Colin Powell, the universally popular former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, would be the senator's choice for Secretary of State; the two met for breakfast last week. Another notion to

deflate Mr Clinton's oratory was a form of psychological warfare to embarrass the President by placing one or two mystery guests "from the past" in the front row of the Hartford auditorium.

Billy Dale, who was unceremoniously dismissed by Mr Clinton as director of the White House travel office in 1993 and has been the most vehement critic of both the President and Hillary Clinton, was said to be a possibility.

The Clinton campaign had prepared the President for various assaults on his character and a direct attack over the issue of drugs and drug-related crime. Teenage drug abuse has increased 80 per cent since he took office in 1992 and Mr Clinton admitted this weekend that he had received a memorandum from Louis Freeh, the Director of the FBI, which criticised the Government's anti-drug strategy as having never been properly organised.

At the same time, allegations have emerged in recent days over Mr Clinton's personal record and that of his staff. Emmett Tyrrell, editor of the *American Spectator*, claimed Mr Clinton was refusing to release his medical records because he was a heavy cocaine user in the early 1980s and

may have been treated for an overdose. Dennis Scullinbrene, a former FBI agent at the White House, alleged that 25 per cent of the incoming Administration had a "problem with illegal drugs". The second claim, however, became less of a political tool yesterday when John Buckley, communications director for the Dole campaign, was accused of smoking marijuana regularly while at university.

In preparation for the debate, both candidates had secluded themselves with large retinues of aides, image consultants, videos and books. The President, at a rural New York estate, held mock debates with George Mitchell, his Irish envoy, taking the role of Mr Dole.

The White House, attempting to dampen heightened expectations of Mr Clinton's performance last night, said that he had lost the first practice run by being too garrulous.

Mr Dole, at his Florida home, turned to Fred Thompson, a senator and former actor, to play the Democratic incumbent. George Bush, the former President and the only man with first-hand experience of debating against Mr Clinton, flew by private jet to offer last-minute advice to Mr Dole over cheeseburgers at his seaside flat.



President Clinton relaxes in an upstate New York bookshop

Snow White gets mini-camera to keep bodice pure

BY QUENTIN LETTS

MINIATURE cameras are to be placed inside the costumes of some of the large-scale cartoon characters which roam Walt Disney's theme parks. The company hopes that the cameras will reduce the number of attacks by over-eager visitors on the actors who work inside costumes representing such stars as Mickey Mouse, Pluto and Snow White.

"People are grabbing at them all the time," said Rich Baker, a Disney official. "The characters get knocked down. Sometimes they are pumelled by teenagers."

In recent years, the weight of the costumes has been reduced, making life more tolerable for those — normally young actors — who work inside them. Disney has found ways of making the masks cooler, and also of improving the manoeuvrability of the costumes.

It is harder for the company to regulate the behaviour of its customers, from the youngsters who grab at the plastic bee suspended over Winnie

the Pooh's head to the adult guests who, full of bonhomie (and sometimes more), make a grab for Snow White's bosom. Some visiting fathers have even been known to whisper improper suggestions to her.

The Pooh problem has been solved by getting rid of the bee; for other complaints, the new cameras should help. The *St Petersburg Times* reported that the devices will be as small as ballpoint-pen caps. They are similar to those that are used by undercover television documentary makers.

The cameras will transmit images to a pair of spectacles worn by the actor inside the costume, enabling him to see what is happening on all sides. It will now be easier to avoid sitting on ice creams, and to detect approaching bottom-pinchers and other pests.

Initially, because of their high cost, installation of the cameras will be selective. The technological advance was announced as Disney celebrated 25 years of its theme parks, which have been visited by more than 100 million people.



Valujet, back in the air with many flights sold out

Safety concerns linger as airline takes off again

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN TAMPA, FLORIDA

AMERICA'S cheapest airline, Valujet, has resumed commercial flights almost five months after the Everglades crash that killed 110 people.

That disaster put the airline under the safety spotlight. Scrutiny was applied to 13 elderly DC-9s and low prices, yet, even as the airline's first flight prepared for takeoff last week, the American flight attendants' union was seeking to ground it in a federal appeals court. The union claimed that Valujet was "unsafe" and a danger to "all other airlines who must share the airspace".

The company's fares are low — \$39 (£25) this month to fly one-way from Atlanta to Florida or \$49 to make the haul to Washington DC. One area in which Valujet saves money is rickety paperwork. Passengers are given reusable plastic boarding passes. Seats are on a first-come, first-served basis. Public opinion about the re-launched Valujet has been divided. C.J. Bolster, an Atlanta resident waiting for

trouble with the front landing gear. It also raised questions about the training of some mechanics, said X-ray inspections of Valujet planes were improperly conducted, and that one plane flew several flights with a broken cockpit windshield. Another, which had been hit by lightning, remained in service without being checked, said the aviation administration.

In the days after the Everglades crash, Federico Pena, the Transport Secretary, came close to losing his job, and public confidence in air safety was dented. The media examined a spate of accidents — none fatal — that had befallen Valujet.

In the cockpit of Flight 123, Lee Nell and Larry Skinner blamed politics for the prolonged grounding. "It's good to be back," said Captain Nell. "Damn good."

He and Captain Skinner both served in the US Air Force as fighter pilots. Valujet employs several former air force flyers — who have 4,000 medals between them — which may explain incidents such as the ignored cracked windshield. Military types sometimes take a more robust approach to aviation.

There were 115 passengers and only three empty seats on Flight 123. Many Valujet flights last week were sold out. The DC9, 32-series airliner was clean and comfortable. In some early turbulence a woman in row 21 produced a small bottle of vodka from her handbag to steady her nerves, but the drinks trolley soon came round and did brisk trade.

The cabin attendants, Mary-Dawn and Fozzie, maintained wide grins throughout and, before landing, used the cabin PA system to conduct a trivia quiz. Prize: a sun visor bearing the jaunty Valujet logo of a plump, smiling DC9.

"We're Back!" said a leaflet in the seat pockets. It included an essay on the durability of DC9s and the announcement that Valujet had appointed a "safety czar", General James B. Davis (retired), the former Chief of Staff of Nato Supreme Allied Powers Europe.

Wall Street, too, has kept faith with the airline, and when flights resumed company stock rose by more than \$2 to close at almost \$13.

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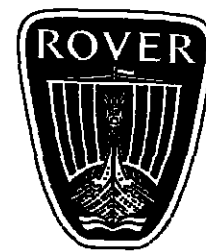


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هكذا من الأصل

Pakistani leader accuses rogue police over her brother's killing

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Benazir Bhutto, in London on her way home from the United Nations, hits back at her domestic critics Photographs by Des Jensen

Bhutto fears she is assassins' next target

BY MICHAEL DYNES

BENAZIR BHUTTO, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, has voiced fears that she could be the next victim in the blood sport of South Asian politics.

She is still shaken by the killing of her brother, Murtaza, in Karachi last month and the threat of imprisonment, execution and assassination faced by Pakistan's leaders is clearly uppermost in her mind. The death of her last remaining brother came exactly a year after the discovery of a plot in the armed forces to depose her, confirming fears of a systematic campaign to destabilise the country and bar her from office, she said.

"I got very scared after my brother's death," she told journalists at Claridge's on Saturday. "It's really eerie knowing there are people out

there who can kill your brother when you are the Prime Minister."

Murtaza died during a gun battle with police in Karachi on September 20. The Prime Minister claimed that he may have been assassinated by rogue police elements.

Miss Bhutto, who had been estranged from Murtaza since he broke away from her Pakistan People's Party, said that she was in the process of becoming reconciled with her "baby brother" when he was killed. He knew there would be people "out to get him" for patching up their differences.

With Pakistan threatening to implode in sectarian and ethnic slaughter, Miss Bhutto has been the subject of ferocious attacks from all political opponents, not least because she is the first female Prime Minister of a Muslim country. Battered by persis-

tent allegations of corruption and nepotism, she said it was time for Pakistan to establish a special prosecutor to investigate "everybody". Allegations of corruption traditionally have been used as a pretext to bring in the army, she said.

Both she and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, who is known as "Mr 10 Per Cent" and who was appointed Minister for Investment in August, have been the victims of a sustained campaign of political abuse, she said, adding: "Some charges are so ridiculous it makes my blood boil."

Claims that she and her husband have received "chunky amounts" of cash were a "vicious and malicious fabrication". Such allegations were invariably made by "big business and big bureaucracy" which wants "dictatorship not democracy", she said.

Insisting "my hands are clean", Miss Bhutto said that she had a list of Pakistan's richest 250 families who were largely behind the corruption allegations. Perhaps it was time to investigate how much tax they paid.

She dismissed claims that Pakistan had armed and financed the radical Taliban militia in neighbouring Afghanistan, saying: "I would like to debunk the propaganda that Taliban is Pakistan's baby."

She added that it would be illogical and irrational for Pakistan to arm Taleban while the Government in Islamabad was heavily in debt. Her claims flatly contradict, however, repeated accounts by witnesses that arms and ammunition have flooded across the Pakistan-Afghan border towards Taleban strongholds in Kandahar in the past 30 months.

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Fears about Germany threaten France's Napoleonic influence in EU

When the late Nicholas Ridley described monetary union as a "German racket" to dominate Europe, he ended his political career and began a Euro-sceptic fashion for identifying Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, as the source of all Britain's ills in the European Union.

Ridley had it wrong. At the root of many British difficulties in Europe lies not one country but a pair of them: France and Germany. For all its strains, the alliance across the Rhine still sets the EU agenda. When Paris and



Bonn decide not to set it, or fail to, British Prime Ministers have it easier. John Major left the weekend summit in Dublin without

scars because Germany and France wanted to avoid a fracas on the eve of the Tory conference and because they are still at loggerheads over revising Maastricht.

France and Germany's determination to improvise and muddle through apparently intractable problems has kept the relationship special since Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer decided it would be so in 1963. The alliance's durability persuades financial markets that the single currency will start despite the evident risks. Most alliances are made to

advance or protect common interests: the Paris-Bonn relationship turns this principle upside down. After fighting three wars in a century, France and Germany set up an alliance to find common interests. "France has a German policy," André Fontaine, the veteran commentator, said. "She has no other."

The alliance is an end in itself: its purpose is to stay in existence. Underwritten by every American President, intimacy between Paris and Bonn has been a pillar of postwar peace. That

poses a recurrent problem for British statecraft. London can hardly complain about friendship between old enemies, but in the EU Britain is regularly wrong-footed by a two-country cartel which has cornered the market in ideas on what Europe should be.

A few ideas have even been British. Lord Howe's memoirs recall his difficult but successful drive to persuade Margaret Thatcher to sell a joint EU political initiative to Herr Kohl. The Chancellor came to a summit at Chequers, took away the ideas and went quiet. A few weeks

later, they resurfaced as a Franco-German initiative.

There have been noisy quarrels (over Yugoslavia) and silent tussles (free trade and nuclear tests), but harmony is always restored. Even when the power balance between the two states has so evidently shifted in Germany's favour, the machinery patiently tries to knit joint positions on majority voting, Malta or mushrooms. Differences which cannot be eroded out of existence are not mentioned. France has invested its

entire postwar identity in this one friendship. Building the European Economic Community around the Paris-Bonn axis put France in the most influential position in the history of Europe since the zenith of Napoleon's empire on the eve of the Battle of Leipzig in 1813.

The fall of the Berlin Wall pushed the countries closer. In exchange for allowing Germany to reunite, France would win some control over the Bundesbank inside a monetary union. Britain was irrelevant to the deal. Far too late, French eco-

omic leaders have begun to fret about what life may be like inside a currency zone designed and run along Bundesbank lines. France is liable to suffer higher unemployment and dislocation than Germany. Moreover, a single currency is likely to create a "core" Europe which excludes Britain, which is France's closest military ally. France has no strategy to deal with this dilemma, save to warn Britain that if forced to choose it will, as always, choose Germany.

GEORGE BROCK

Major sidelined as Kohl and Chirac sell 'grand vision'

By CHARLES BREMNER

BUREAUCRATS will be told to fix their sights on a grand future union and not be lost in small print after the weekend EU summit. The Continent's leaders decided to ignore British warnings about taking leaps in the dark.

Turning a deaf ear to the misgivings of John Major, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France led a chorus of satisfaction that the one-day session in Dublin had achieved its modest aim of injecting some political vision into the stumbling talks to redesign the Maastricht treaty. "We have blazed the trail," proclaimed M Chirac, the instigator of a session that had been deemed unnecessary by many other EU leaders.

Echoing John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, the leaders all promised to give a political push to the negotiations at the inter-governmental conference which is revamping the EU before it is opened to a batch of new members from the East. Beyond the "British problem", all averred that the negotiations, begun in Turin last March, had become bogged down in detail. Herr Kohl spent much of the weekend ridiculing speculation that he wanted a scaled-down treaty. He promised that "Maastricht

Two" would be completed by the June deadline.

Although Herr Kohl and M Chirac proclaimed the health of the EU's core alliance, German suspicions of the French President's unpredictable behaviour were audible. The leaders of smaller countries, such as Wim Kok, of The Netherlands, worried publicly about the existence of the necessary political will to reach the compromise required on such things as abandoning the veto.

However, the differences were eclipsed by a sense of common purpose among the other 14 in the face of what they see as British intransigence. With the British elections casting a long shadow over the Maastricht review, Mr Major was treated by the others more than ever "like an awkward cousin who may soon be leaving the family", as a Belgian official put it.

A senior French official said there was no stomach for making Mr Major's life more difficult than it already was. "After all you don't shoot at ambulances," he said.

An ambassador from a big member state said Mr Major's colleagues hardly minded his decision to stay away from their closing dinner in Dublin on Saturday night because "they are resigned to his

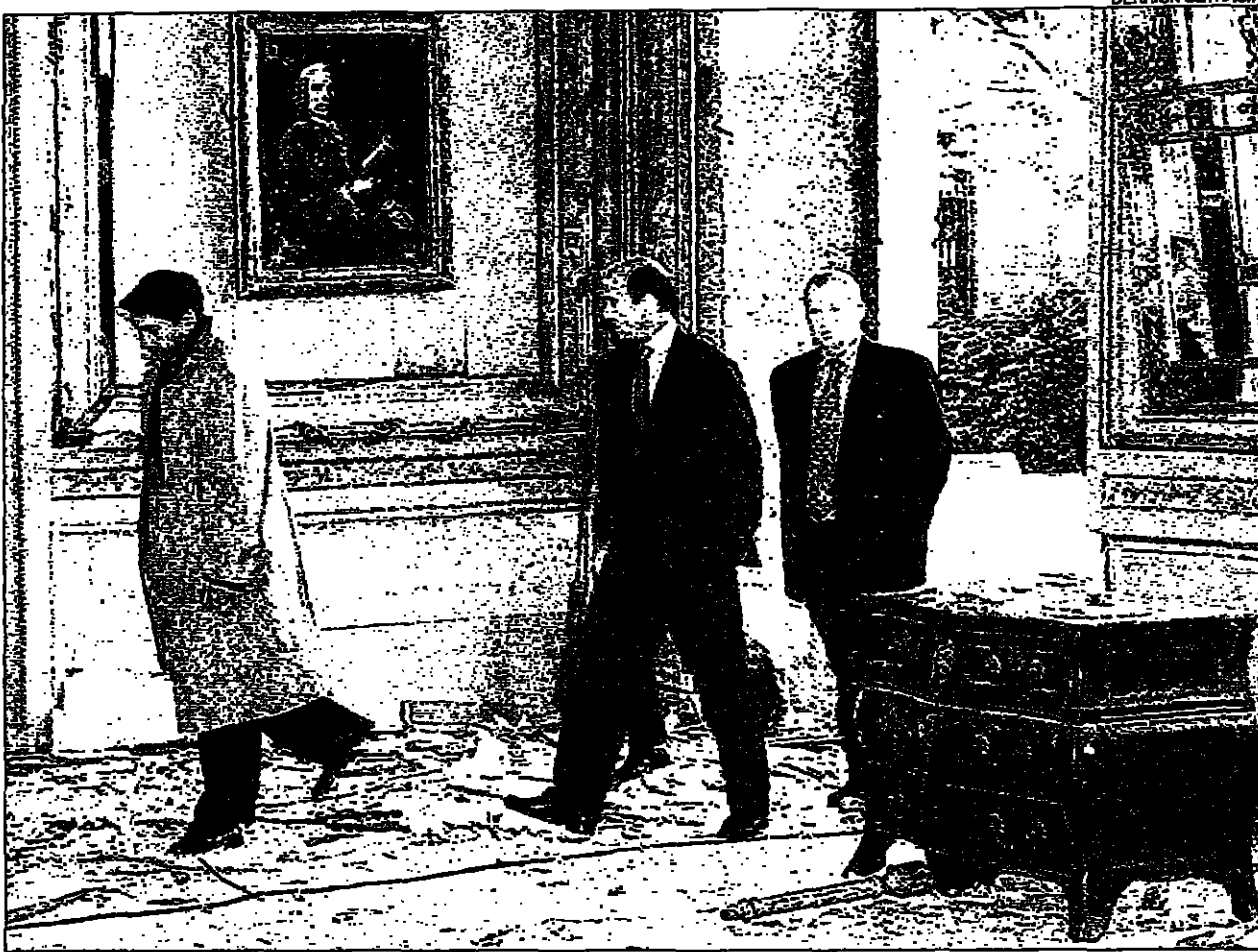
absence from EU business at least for the next six months".

Mr Major restated Britain's opposition to any dilution of sovereignty. He also warned the other leaders of the dangers of rushing to fulfil visions. "There is no point in talking about a great leap forward unless people know precisely where you are leaping," he said. "What Britain is doing is not being recalcitrant. What Britain is doing is saying those matters have got to be properly assessed."

The atmosphere was soured early when Mr Major tackled Klaus Hänsch, the German President of the European Parliament, over an attack on Britain, which he made a day earlier. The Prime Minister said he had been offended by Herr Hänsch's accusation that Britain had blackmailed Europe in the "beef war" and was untrustworthy.

Herr Hänsch had said: "I fail to see why 14 governments should always have to sacrifice their vision of Europe... to keep on board a government which may jump ship in any case." Mr Major told Herr Hänsch to mind his own business and invited him to a British parliamentary briefing for the facts on Britain.

William Rees-Mogg, page 22
Letters, page 23



Alain Juppé, centre, inspects bomb damage yesterday at the Bordeaux City Hall, an 18th-century palace

Bomb shatters Juppé mayoral office

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

FRENCH police were bracing yesterday for a fresh wave of terrorist attacks after Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, narrowly escaped a bomb blast in Bordeaux, where he is Mayor.

M Juppé had held a meeting in the City Hall just hours before the ground floor of the building was devastated by what police said was a powerful explo-

sion on Saturday night. Investigators believe it was probably carried out by Corsican separatists. But detectives have not ruled out the possibility that it was the work of Islamic fundamentalists.

Security of potential terrorist targets in France is likely to be stepped up after a meeting this morning between M Juppé, Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister, and Jacques Toubon, the Justice Minister. "I'm not a man to let myself be intimidated," said M Juppé after survey-

ing the wreckage at the city council building, an 18th-century palace.

Councillors who held an emergency meeting with M Juppé yesterday said that the damage was "spectacular". The bomb, placed on the rear steps of the City Hall, destroyed a room in which M Juppé had been working earlier in the day. Windows in surrounding streets were also blown out in the blast. "My flat shook and my glass of wine was knocked over," a local resident said.

Two killed by missile in Danish biker feud

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT
IN COPENHAGEN AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A MAN and woman were killed and at least 17 people were injured, three seriously, when an anti-tank missile was fired into a Hell's Angels party in Copenhagen yesterday.

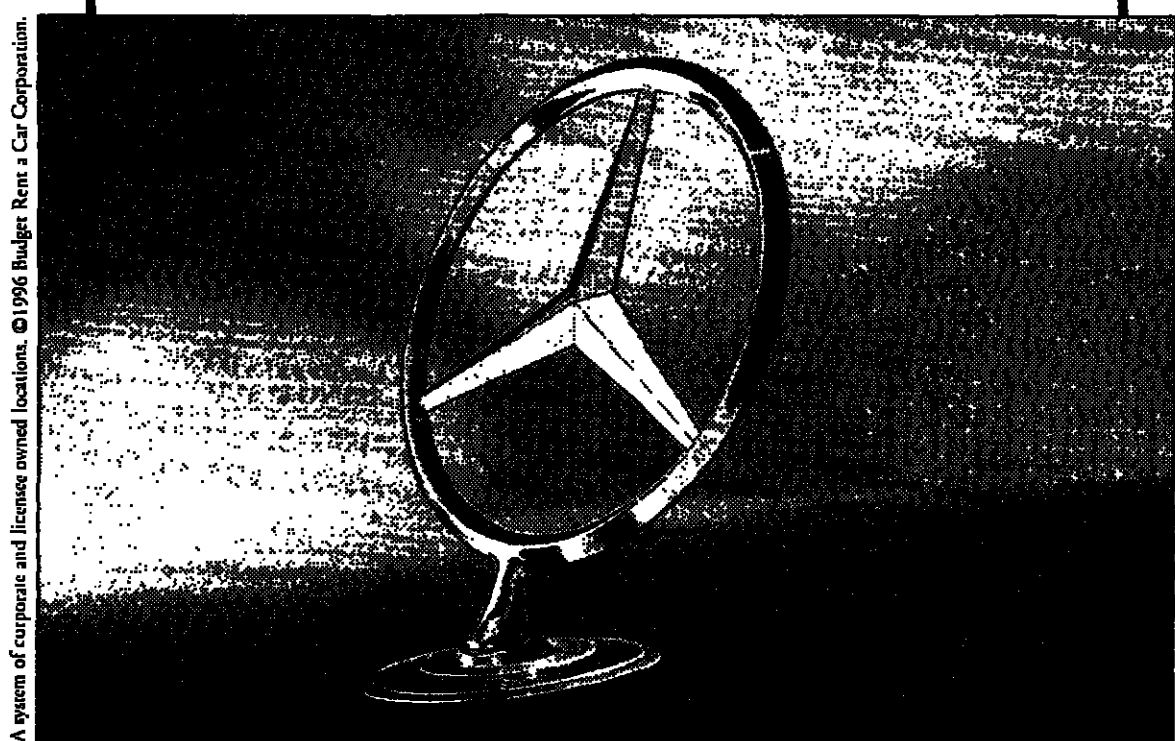
Police in the Danish capital said the attack appeared to be the latest in a feud between the Hell's Angels and Bandidos biker gangs in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. The shoulder-fired missile tore through a beer tent in the backyard of the heavily-fortified clubhouse before hitting the building.

The annual Viking Feast was attended by at least 300 Hell's Angels, some from other countries. It had been under police surveillance because of previous biker attacks. Police raids were immediately launched on Bandidos throughout Denmark.

The spent launcher and another ready for firing were found nearby. They were similar to 12 stolen from a military store in neighbouring Sweden in February 1994.

The gangs have waged a territorial war for almost 300 years. Nine people have died. Police think the groups have interests in drugs, prostitution and extortion. The Danish Government is rushing through a law to bar them from properties in residential areas because of the risk of further attacks.

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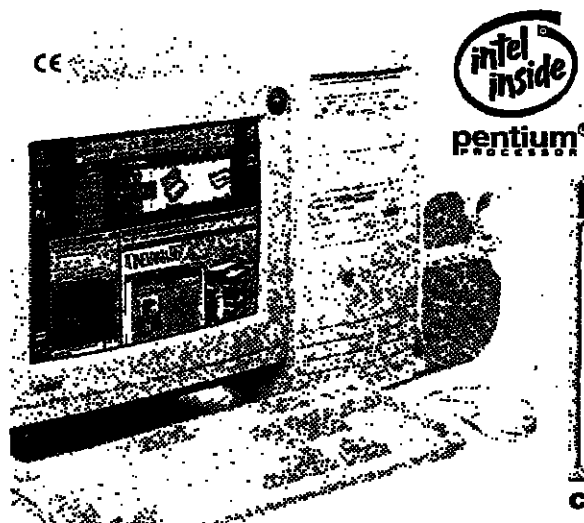
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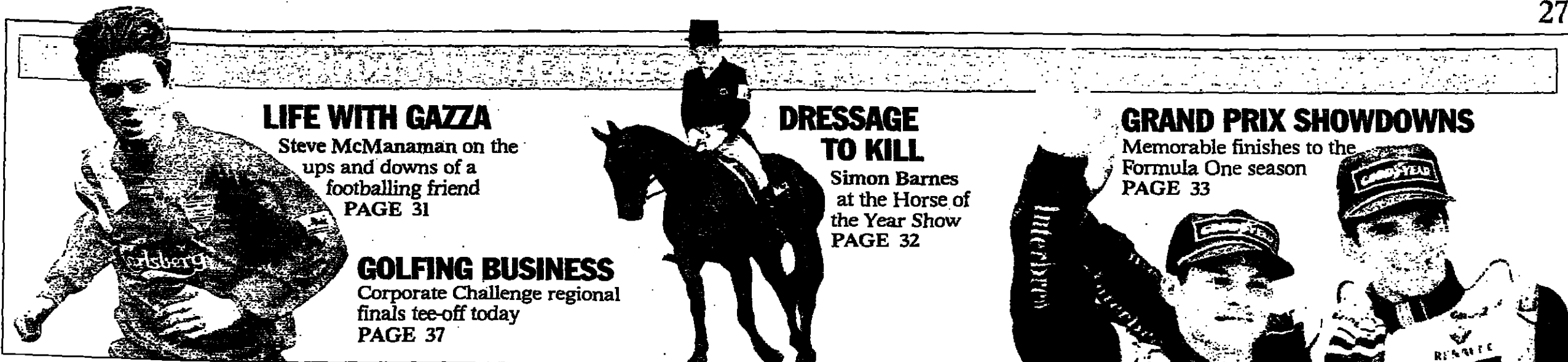
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LIFE WITH GAZZA

Steve McManaman on the ups and downs of a footballing friend
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DRESSAGE TO KILL

Simon Barnes at the Horse of the Year Show
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GRAND PRIX SHOWDOWNS

Memorable finishes to the Formula One season
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GOLFING BUSINESS

Corporate Challenge regional finals tee-off today
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY OCTOBER 7 1996



Helissio romps home clear of the field to confirm his status as a true middle-distance champion at Longchamp yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

French horse conquers Europe's finest to win Arc

Helissio triumph hailed

FROM RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT
AT LONGCHAMP

A SUMMER of discontent for racing purists who waited in vain for a true middle-distance champion from the classic generation was transformed into an autumn of pure gold here yesterday, when Helissio proved himself one of the greatest winners of the Forêt-Meridien Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

The stunning annihilation of 15 rivals in Europe's premier race was epitomised by Olivier Peslier, rider of the French-trained colt, standing up in his triumph for a jubilant victory salute to the Longchamp crowd at least 70 metres before passing the winning post.

On a glorious afternoon, one person could not bring himself to watch her husband's final hour. Marie Peslier, wife of the winning jockey, was a member of a French television team covering the race but she said: "I was so nervous you cannot imagine. I just left the studio to hear the race. I could not watch it. When I heard Helissio was two or three lengths ahead I believed it and just shouted 'come on, come on'. It has been such a pretty day."

But for the showmanship, the official winning distance of a long-looking five lengths could easily have been doubled. As it was, the finish — with the opposition routed and strung out like a line of washing — looked more like the end of a novice hurdle at

Cheltenham than the climax to the jewel in racing's middle-distance crown.

Having made all the running, like the mighty Alleged in the second of his Arc victories in 1978, and displayed the acceleration of a Dancing Brave or Mill Reef, Helissio was last night being hailed as the finest winner of the Arc since the incomparable Sea Bird in 1965.

"I don't know how you say this in English but for me it was ooh-la-la-la. Today you saw the best of the best," Peslier, the 22-year-old son of a stonemason, said. "He won very easily and just ran better and better throughout the race."

The story of Helissio's victory is easily told. Knowing he had the best horse in a race where a strong pace was far from certain, Peslier took the 1.8-1 favourite to the front after a furlong in order to avoid any

scrimmaging, which invariably bedevils the Arc. Pilsudski, representing Michael Stoute and Walter Swinburn, travelled cosily in his slipstream, while Zagreb, the runaway Irish Derby winner, hugged the rail in third place.

For more than a mile, the leading positions remained unchanged. Still travelling

Ryafan raises standard ... 36
Yesterday's results ... 36

ominously well in front as the field made the long sweeping turn into the home straight, only Swinburn looked at ease aboard Pilsudski. And within a couple of strides he knew his fate. "Peslier let out a notch of rein and in two strides he was gone," Swinburn said afterwards.

Suddenly, Helissio, trained by Elie Lellouche, was four,

five, six lengths clear as he quickened away from the field and galloped into history. After such rare moments of genuine brilliance, it is often left to those vanquished to put the feat into perspective.

"We were beaten by a monster," Stoute commented after Pilsudski had deservedly held on to the runner-up spot. "I am delighted with my fellow; he has kept on improving throughout the year but, unfortunately, we came across a machine. As soon as the winner quickened, it was all over. We were never going to get near him."

Swinburn, rider of the runner-up, concurred. "My fellow would have won nine out of ten Arcs," Michael Hills, rider of tenth-placed Pentire, reflected. "The winner controlled the race the whole way."

But for a poor display of jockeyship in the French Derby, which cost Dominique

Boeuf the ride, Helissio would be unbeaten in his career. That undeserved blot on his record delayed Helissio from being acclaimed a true champion until last night, although it did not deter the bloodstock-greedy Japanese stepping in with a recent bid.

In the run-up to the Arc, an offer of \$8 million (about £5.3 million) was turned down by Enrique Sarasola, a successful Spanish businessman and chairman of Madrid racecourse, who acquired Helissio for just £135,000 as a foal. The dollar sign is likely to be replaced by a pound sign and Sarasola may find it harder to resist.

As the Japanese consider a tempting price tag, they should consider the thoughts of Helissio's trainer, Lellouche. "He may not be a Sea Bird, but he's a very good horse, perhaps the second-best ever." If Lammarr, the Arc winner last year, was worth \$30 million to the Japanese, what price Helissio?

If there was a hard-luck story, it belonged to Oscar Schindler, who encountered all sorts of trouble early on before coming from last to snatch third place. With a clearer run, he may have finished second.

After an unbelievable eight days, Frankie Dettori at last met his Waterloo and finished last of the finishers on Classic Cliche, who suffered an interrupted preparation. At least the Ascot Gold Cup winner finished, unlike Polarix Flight, who broke a leg and had to be put down.



Peslier salutes the crowd after his stunning victory

BIG RACE DETAILS

2.50 FORTE MERIDIEN PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE (Group 1: £527,000; 1m 4f)
1. HELISSIO b c Fairy King — Helice Q Peslier 3-8-11
2. Pilsudski b c Polish Precident — Cocotte 4-9-5 W R Swinburn
3. Oscar Schindler ch c Royal Academy — Saradey 4-9-5 C Asmussen
ALSO RAN: Classic Cliche, Darazan, Le Destin (8th), Leeds, Leonie, Luna Wells (9th), Pentire, Polarix Flight (7), Redevore, Sharnut, Swain (4th), Tarnure, Zagreb, 16 ran 5L sh nk 1L 1/4, XI Trained by E Lellouche in France. Part-mutuel (fr 1h stake): 2.80; 1.70; 5.10; 3.90 DP 45.00

INSIDE



POINTS OF ORDER

Colin Montgomerie may have confirmed his position as Europe's No 1 golfer for the fourth consecutive year yesterday, but his obsession with winning a major championship and public expectation of his achieving that must still be kept in perspective. David Miller reports.

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BREAKING POINT

Newcastle's 156-5 rout of Rugby Lions on Saturday set a Courage Clubs Championship points record. Rob Andrew explains to David Hands the reasons behind this season's scoring spree by rugby union's elite.

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FOOTBALL: COLE'S INJURY HIGHLIGHTS PRESSURE ON LEADING PLAYERS AS VITAL FIXTURES LOOM

England's finest prepare for the big squeeze

ROB HUGHES



Football Correspondent

Fitting football into the ever-increasing demands of the modern fixture list is like trying to squeeze an 18-stone woman into a size ten dress. It will not go, someone is going to get hurt, and quality is bound to give in the end.

Getting hurt, a risk of the trade, was the fate that befell Andy Cole, the Manchester United striker, when he suffered fractured bones in both legs during a reserve team match against Liverpool at Anfield yesterday.

This week, Glenn Hoddle appears to have swung the pendulum. He has the undivided attention of 23 of England's finest players for seven full days leading up to the World Cup qualifying game against Poland at Wembley on Wednesday. Add time for the players from the big clubs in the north to travel to and from the training camp in the south, and England has taken priority over the players for nine days.

In the 11 days that follow, the players of Manchester United, Liverpool and Newcastle United, the three clubs of greatest wealth and potential, and those on whom this country's European expectations at club level are based, will have to squeeze in three consecutive, including the key matches of the FA Cup, Carling Premiership season, as well as journey's far and wide onto the Continent.

Hoddle, doing what he reasonably can to win over the players he has selected, has gained unprecedented access to them, ostensibly because the clubs have been made to acknowledge that success for England is success for them. The new coach, preparing for his first Wembley international, has fresh ideas, not only about the style in which his team should play, but also about the manner in which players should behave while on duty in the name of the nation.

Thank heavens for those ambitions, but surely the Premier League could have programmed its computer to come up with something a little more sane than the fixtures now awaiting those players in whatever condition of elation or tiredness or physical stress, when they return to the people who pay their daily wage.

On Saturday morning, at 11.15, Manchester United play Liverpool in front of 35,000 spectators at Old Trafford. It is a convenience of television, just as the modern business demands of one of the traditionally thrilling and important games of the season.

'Surely the Premier League computer could have come up with something more sane'

Then, on Monday lunch-time, United, the champions, depart for Istanbul, as ferocious a footballing beast as Europe provides. The opposition may be Fenerbahce and not Galatasaray, but Turkey is Turkey, and United will need all the preparation of mind and body that they can muster. When they return, they will have to lick the wounds of battle and think straight away of the following Sunday, when they play another televised encounter, against Newcastle United at St James' Park. The championship could depend on these fixtures against Liverpool and Newcastle, England's hopes of regaining respectability in European club competition could also pivot on Manchester United's resilience and appetite in Istanbul.

When United won the double last year, such as David Beckham. Now, with all these big games coming at such extraordinary pace, perhaps we can see why the top manager in British club football complains so, Ferguson will have as little as four proper training sessions in which to organise his strategy, to freshen the appetite of his players, to iron out any faults or fatigue that developed with England or on United's journeys.

It is easy to observe that, since England's "big three" face one another during this intense club-versus-country fortnight, there is equality of a sort: all three are in similar situations. It is not, however,

entirely accurate. Newcastle play in Hungary in the Uefa Cup next Tuesday, Liverpool travel to Sion, in Switzerland, for their Cup Winners' Cup game on the Thursday. They involve flying time, but without the volatility at the other end.

Are there solutions? There may have been, had the Premier League shown the foresight to put these fixtures back into its computer, with instructions to come out with something more helpful at such a time. The club-versus-country fixation would not disappear even if, as Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman and an FA councillor, demanded, the FA pays the players' wages while they are on international duty.

Hoddle, his former club manager, suggests that fixtures in the league are uniformly put back until the Sunday after internationals, to give players time. But Hoddle was present at a recent convention of 43 national coaches in Europe. Bert Vogts, the Germany coach, whose team plays in Armenia on Wednesday and whose clubs all played in the Bundesliga this weekend, called for a new format. He, and others, would prefer national teams to play twice in the space of ten days. Italy, for example, having played in Moldova on Saturday, now play Georgia on Wednesday. According to Vogts, this would free the congestion, meaning that coaches had a full week to work with their players, but the demands on the clubs came at half the frequency.

Hoddle prefers to play internationals at night, when he feels the "body clock" of players is at its best. And he does not want to risk having to play twice in a short time, when the national team harmony could be disrupted by injuries.

A cynic might say that the national coach, serving his own ends, would rather pass those injuries back to the clubs, but think of Gary Neville, still a developing player, likely to play wing back for England on Wednesday, and then be asked to re-adjust to right back, or indeed centre back, for Manchester United, if injuries suggest that is where Ferguson needs him.

The club-versus-country controversy is, like the poor, ever with us. But all arguments are lost when the financial priorities of club football take over. Middlebrough, taking advantage of the break in league fixtures, are now on a two-match busman's holiday in Thailand. Sometimes, the complaints of managers are like sirens sounding in the desert.



Gary Neville, of Manchester United, will find his fitness and versatility sorely tested

ELEVEN DAYS TO MAKE (OR BREAK) A SEASON

Away from clubs for England training week at Bisham Abbey

England v Poland World Cup qualifier at Wembley (8pm)
Report back to clubs. Massage, treatment
Training (am), resting (pm)
Manchester United v Liverpool Premiership match (11.15am)
Massage, treatment, rest
Light training (am), flight to Turkey (1pm)
Training (am), rest
Fenerbahce v Manchester United Champions' League match (7.30pm)
Arrive in Manchester (2am), treatment or rest day
Training (am)
Training (am), travel to Newcastle (pm)
Newcastle v Manchester United Premiership match (4pm). Return to Manchester

England have the benefit of seven full days working with the players but after the match against Poland Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, might have a maximum of four training sessions between three games which could make or break their season.

While the players are on extended England preparation the clubs must pay their £20,000 weekly wages and hope that they return uninjured. As well as the England players United lose Schuster (Denmark), Irwin (Finland), Johnson and Solisgar (Norway), Cruyff (Holland), Poborsky (Czech Republic) and are treating Phil Neville and Keane for injuries and Cantona (not required by France) for a bruised ego.

SQUASH

Jackman has Australians in her sights

Colin McQuillan, in Kuala Lumpur, analyses the progress of one of Britain's brightest hopes

ON THE evidence of form, the women's world squash championships, which start here today, should be a tale of Australian domination. Michelle Martin, from Sydney, is looking for a record fifth successive world open title, but could be thwarted by Sarah Fitzgerald, the world No.2 from Melbourne. These two will be joined by two other Australians in the world top six, Liz Irving and Carol Owens, for the defence of the world team championship.

But, as England's men have illustrated at both senior and junior levels over the past 12 months, form is not always a reliable guide in the heated environment of world-title competition.

Five Englishwomen hold places in the world top ten, with the national champion, Suzanne Horner, of Yorkshire, at No.3 and looking to join Sue Wright, of Kent, and Linda Charnham, of Sussex, in causing problems for Fitzgerald in the bottom half of the draw for the individual event.

It may be, however, that the fourth member of the England team, Cassandra Jackman, of Norfolk, will carry the greatest potential for breaking down the Australian domination.

Jackman has promised much for many years after delivering in some style as a junior. She won the 1991 world junior championship and, on her first senior tour, rose to the rank of world No.2. But her only significant titles over the past four years came in 1993, at the British nationals and the US Open.

An over-dependence on a booming forehead drive that was all too prone to dipping into the tin and a certain jerkiness in her court movement contributed to her failure to convert numerous semi-final positions at the big events into actual title victories.

"It has never worried me as much as it does others," she said. "People seem to forget how young I was. Michelle Martin did not become a great winner until she was 25."

At 23, Jackman believes she is now ready to start winning finals. "I have been working with David Pearson, the new England national coach," she said. "We have made a few changes to my game and worked a lot on court movement. It has taken eight or nine months but things are starting to click now."

Pearson is a technician whose name crops up repeatedly in the early histories of England's best young players. He has opened the face of Jackman's racket on the forehead, improving the line of her drive and the delivery of her drop, and smoothed her

movement. "I have never seen her stronger," Alex Cowie, her long-time coach and mentor, said. "And I don't think I have seen her more ready for a big tournament. She is buzzing."

In an echo of a famously narrow £1,000 challenge win by Susan Devoy over the young Simon Parke, when the then world champion, from New Zealand, was in her prime, Jackman last week defeated England's young player of the year, Nicholas Manthwa, over an hour and 20 minutes in Birmingham. "I am not sure any other woman in the world could have beaten Nick that night," Cowie said. More pertinently, in Singapore in August, Jackman took the second game of a quarter-final from Martin and held game points in the fourth before letting the world champion slip away. "That is the closest they have been since



Jackman: improved

Michelle stepped into the gap created by Devoy's retirement in 1992," Cowie said.

"Since then, Cassie has worked harder than ever before. She is trimmer and very confident and if this were a world competition for solo ghosting on court, she would already be holding a gold medal. The test is converting such good preparation into performance against the best, but she is certainly ready."

Martin, now 29, leads her 27-year-old compatriot +3 in final victories since the World Open in Hong Kong last July. The defending champion wins most often on mental strength and physical staying power. Fitzgerald is more of a blitzkrieg specialist.

Jackman might need both styles to break through, as fourth seed, to win a first world title. She is scheduled for a semi-final against Martin and, if successful, a likely final against Fitzgerald.

Barford Tigers were beaten 2-0 at home by Teddington, McGuire scoring in each half. In the closest match of the day, Hounslow snatched a 3-2 victory over Guildford, with Rose scoring the winner four minutes before the end — his second goal. McQuillan scored Hounslow's other goal with Hall and Moseley replying for Guildford.

In the first division, Beeston had another field day with a 5-0 home victory over Isca.

All eyes on new goal standard

Life is suddenly busier for defenders in hockey. Andrew Longmore sees why

WHO would be a hockey goalkeeper these days? Last week, 43 goals were scored in six men's national league premier division matches, an average of seven a game and an early vindication of the decision by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) to make the game more televisually attractive by abolishing the offside rule. No more standing to attention, hand thrust in the air, no more compressing the game into the central third of the field and hoping for the best. No more blinding and blinding depression are likely to be the most common goalkeepers' ailments by season's end.

"It makes my life hell in the bar afterwards," David Luckes, the England goalkeeper, said. "People say: 'hey, you let in four again, what happened?' You could have had a blinder but it's difficult trying to explain because you still let in four."

Luckes did let in four on the first day of the new league season. But he did better yesterday, keeping a clean sheet as his club, East Grinstead, beat Surbiton 5-0 on a day when six matches produced another 34 goals. Surbiton's shooting was not up to much but at a time when defences are still coming to terms with the new rules and forwards are making hay in their acres of space, it was a source of some pride.

"Coaches and players are still absorbing the effects of the most radical change imposed on the game. Only 20 years ago, the rules stated that three players had to be between an opponent and the goal. Then, 50 years after football had done the same,



David Luckes, the East Grinstead goalkeeper, keeps out a shot from Surbiton's Gary Nottin yesterday

nently "offside" but never managed to get the ball to him when it mattered. East Grinstead cut off the supply lines and, when pressed into their own third, defended their goalkeeper in numbers to block shots and clear rebounds. The longer the match went on, the more their speed and fitness told on the slower, heavier, Surbiton side. Only one of the five goals, though, would have been offside under the old rules.

"Mobility is the key with no offside," the Surbiton coach, David Rutherford, admitted. "The days of ten years ago when a few big guys in the middle could handle the situation are gone. You have to be very mobile and very quick so it will be a game for young men."

The danger is that some teams will rely for survival on hockey's version of the long ball. Surbiton might be one. "I have this terrible nagging thought that teams will line up a defensive wall across the 25-yard line and hope for a break or two from set pieces near the opponent's goal," Rutherford said. "It could be done. Another defeat like this and we might have to do it, though it's never been our style."

The experiment is initially for a year, but few rules are rescinded once made. Luckes can foresee goalkeepers becoming kicking backs, marking and sweeping behind the defence, the ultimate indignity. "I think it might get worse before it gets better for us." But, not perhaps for everyone else. Like the introduction of the six-tackle rule in rugby league, this could herald the dawning of a new age for hockey. Even for goalkeepers, in time.

HOCKEY: CANNOCK RECOVER FROM EARLY SETBACK TO THRASH SOUTHGATE

Ipswich find reward in fitting victory

BY A CORRESPONDENT

IPSWICH gained some consolation for their disappointing 3-0 defeat at Clifton on Saturday when they beat Hightown, the women's premier division champions, 2-1 in their rescheduled fixture yesterday.

The Suffolk club will be approaching the All-England Women's Hockey Association for recompense for their wasted journey to Hightown last week, when the game was postponed by flooding, which set them back £700. "The whole team played below par at Clifton," Sandie Lister, the Ipswich captain, said, "but against Hightown, our tactics were spot on."

Sarah Bamfield opened Ipswich's account in the seventeenth minute and, after Maggie Souyave equalised, seven minutes before the break, Leisa King hit the winner from a penalty corner. The win helped Ipswich to move up to fourth place behind the unbeaten leaders, Slough, Clifton and Hightown. Slough had no trouble seeing off Doncaster who, despite taking a first minute lead, lost 1-4.

It was a successful day for England strikers with Kathryn James netting a hat-trick for Trojans, of Southampton, who held on for a 3-2 win at Sutton Coldfield.

In the first division, Olton swept to their third successive victory, and the top table, after beating Bracknell 4-1.

Crutchley scores four more

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANNOCK opened the floodgates again in the premier division of the National League yesterday with a 7-2 victory at Southgate. Robert Crutchley adding four goals to the three he scored last week. Southgate were ahead within three minutes, Gibbins being fouled and Attala converting the resultant penalty stroke. But, after successfully defending three short corners, they could not prevent David Mayer from converting the fourth to level the score in the eighteenth minute.

A brilliant run by Chris Mayer, in the 29th minute, set up the chance for Crutchley to give Cannock a 2-1 lead, which they held until half-time. Three minutes into the second half, Crutchley converted Cannock's seventh short corner and, a minute later, Pidcock added the fourth goal.

The visitors then raced into a 7-1 lead with two more goals by Crutchley, including one from a short corner, and another from Pidcock. Waugh scored Southgate's second goal with a fine shot from a short corner four minutes before the end.

Old Loughtonians joined Cannock at the top of the table with a 4-2 away win over Canterbury. Adair, Philpot, Thompson and Williams scored from open play for Old Loughtonians. Holmes and Evennett, from a short corner, replied for Canterbury.

East Grinstead bounced back from last week's defeat by Southgate to score five goals without reply against

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FOOTBALL: SOUTHALL'S HEROICS IN VAIN AS HOLLAND HIT BACK IN WORLD CUP QUALIFYING MATCH

مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Gazza: a team player with a talent for winning matches

Joining up with the England squad this week, I told Dominic Matteo, my Liverpool team-mate, that he was in for a treat on his first call-up. He wasn't let down, because he got his first taste of the one and only Gazza. You can hardly fail to notice him. Everywhere he goes, he attracts attention. The media follows him everywhere, and everybody wants a little piece of him. I have never met a person who is so much in the public eye.

It is because he is such an incredible character, but I bet that the public doesn't know much about the real Paul Gascoigne. They see the image that is projected by the media, but there is a lot more to him than that.

I have got to know him well on England trips. I think because we share the same instincts for fun and having a bit of a laugh. God bless him, he is absolutely crack-crack, but there is not a malicious bone in his body. He is a happy-go-

lucky lad who is forever playing practical jokes. He is always ringing your room, pretending to be someone else, winding you up and laughing about it.

Even when we visited 10 Downing Street last week, he couldn't resist a bit of a laugh. We were encouraged to wear our Euro 96 blazers, but not Gazza: he went in a very loud suit. When we were filling in through the front door, he couldn't resist hammering away at the bell, as if they didn't know he was there already. When Gazza's around, everybody knows about it. It is his way of relaxing and enjoying himself. He means absolutely no harm. Some people seem to take a dim view of him, but it is merely that his jokes are misunderstood, or that he does it at the wrong time occasionally.

The fact is, he's a great influence on the England squad. Even when he was injured, he was great to have around, because he brings everyone together, relaxes every-

one. He has got a great gift of being able to talk to anyone. He's at ease equally with the Prime Minister or the policeman on the door at No 10. And, when there's a new player in the squad, like Dominic, he'll have a laugh with them, bring them out a bit if they're feeling a little lost. When I got in the England squad he was brilliant with me, he helped me to settle in.

It was noticeable the influence he had during Euro 96, because we were all together for so long, and sometimes that can be a bit tedious. But, when Gazza's around, there's no getting bored, and nobody argues.

He's hyperactive, and that's by no means a criticism. He has always got to be doing something, filling his time. During the European championship, he was very friendly with myself, Robbie Fowler and Jamie Redknapp. We got to the stage where he had worn us out so much that we had to take

great company. I was really honoured when he invited me to his wedding, and even then, on the biggest day of his life, he didn't forget anyone. He looked after me and Victoria, my girlfriend, and made sure we felt at ease.

I know that a lot of people criticise him, but to me they have got it all wrong about Gazza. Let's face it, everyone's an expert on him, and they all think they know what he is like. Everyone has got a theory about what is wrong with him. But I think he has remained remarkably normal, considering the intrusions that he has to put up with. Can you imagine what it must be like having reporters and photographers following you everywhere? Gazza gets it worse than the royal family.

In a way, I feel sorry for him, to be subjected to that sort of scrutiny. And, of course, every little thing he does gets blown out of all proportion. But he manages to carry on as normal, still cheerful,

still getting everyone in the England camp going.

I think what a lot of his critics have lost sight of is the reason he became so famous in the first place — his talent. And he hasn't lost it, no matter what they say. He was voted the best player in Scotland last season, and he had a great Euro 96. That's the thing about him. He's a joker all right, but on the pitch he is deadly serious because he loves his football. He lives for it.

You can see the pride he has in the England shirt, and as he proved against Scotland, he can change a game with a flash of brilliance. He has got that spark of genius, the ability to change the course of a game in one moment, and he is so unpredictable, which is what defenders hate. On top of that, he works really hard, too.

I feel on the same wavelength as him. On the pitch I can read his game reasonably well, and he is

always creating things for me. When I played on the right, he was next to me in midfield, and he is always giving you the ball, then making himself available to take it back. That's the sort of person you want alongside you, someone who is not scared of taking that responsibility.

Gazza is the subject of a television programme this evening and, typically, the media has picked up on one of his comments. They are banging on about drinking with England again. To be honest, it is not an issue at all.

Some people have picked up on Glenn Hoddle supposedly laying down the law about drinking and discipline, but it's just not the case, because he doesn't have to. The players are not interested. The manager let the players have a drink on Saturday night, but nobody was too bothered. What we are all concentrating on is the importance of getting those three points against Poland.

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McGhee defiant as Wolves lose the tactical plot

Wolverhampton W 0
Reading 1

By RICHARD HOBSON

AS THE sound of booing resounded around Molineux, Mark McGhee, the Wolverhampton Wanderers manager, stood in front of his dugout, motionless, his hands pressed against his hips. Finally, he removed his baseball cap, scratched his head and trudged back towards the tunnel. There was much to ponder.

In the private hour that followed, he sought reassurance over his tactics from his

assistant, Colin Lee, and emerged to restate his commitment to a system that is not simply unpopular among supporters, but has yet to be embraced confidently by his players.

"It is me who is demanding that we will continue to play the ball from the back," McGhee said. "In the long run we will win games this way. I know it is right." With three men at the back, including Neil Embien as a sweeper in the second half, the system is similar to the one that Glenn Hoddle has in mind at international level. It demands open minds and patience through the learning process.

McGhee must hope that he is not drowned by the tide of public hostility before his methods take a more successful hold in the Nationwide League first division.

Nothing epitomised the uncertainty more clearly than Reading's goal in the 69th minute, the product of their single attack of note. Richards, suffering more than anybody from a lack of confidence, was indecisive in checking a run across the penalty area by Lambert, who was allowed to jink forward and steer his shot beyond Stowell. Thereafter, Richards could not get rid of the ball quickly enough. Wolves have now lost their past three home games to defensive errors that McGhee describes as "jokes".

In mitigation, McGhee has had awful luck with injuries. He hopes to complete the signing of the German mid-field player, Jens Dörmann, from Hamburg on Wednesday, and, by Christmas, when Williams, Curle, Thomas, Osborn and Goodman should have recovered, his team will be much changed.

He is aware, however, that his predecessor suffered similar problems and lost his job. "If Graham Taylor had had Thomas, Froggatt, de Wolf and Daley fit, then Wolves would be in the Premiership now," he said. "The fact is that he is no longer here and I am not prepared to suffer the same fate."

Reading had lost all five of their previous away League games, but their joint player-manager, Mick Gooding, felt that his players gained inspiration from the quality of the pitch, the stadium and the 23,193 crowd. "The fact that Mark McGhee used to manage Reading had nothing to do with it," Gooding said. "We know Wolves have had problems because his team did better behind the ball. The crowd are very passionate and we thought, if we could frustrate them, it would affect their players."

Gooding could not have been more right. Atkins had a long-range effort turned away by Wright, on loan from Nottingham Forest, while Bull, as ever the most potent threat, hit the side-netting after a powerful burst. In the second half, Crowe, the substitute, shot over the bar in a one-on-one situation. At 18, he is entitled to feel stage fright. Others do not have that excuse.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-2-2): M. Sowell, D. Richards, M. Venn, A. Thompson, J. Smith (sub), S. Romano, S. Corrie (sub), N. Embien, J. Bull, A. Adams, D. Ferguson, S. Thompson, S. Bull, I. Roberts (sub), G. Crowe, 45.

READING (3-1-1): T. Whitt, A. Brown, K. Morrison, D. Widdows (sub), C. Oakley, 59, A. Barnes, P. Bodd, M. Williams (sub), M. Meaker, 63, M. Gooding, M. Gifford, J. Lambert (sub), L. Negan, 83, T. Morley.



Walker, of Mansfield, in acrobatic action at Brunton Park on Saturday

Knighton forced to reschedule fantasy football programme

Ever since he announced that he was buying Manchester United and gave a ball-juggling display in front of the Stretford End, fantasy and Michael Knighton, the Carlisle United chairman, have never been far apart. Two years ago, Carlisle's success in winning the third division title was proclaimed as the beginning of an inevitable march to the FA Cup Premiership and beyond.

Two years on, and Carlisle are on the march again. In between, though, there was a relegation, which has apparently had a chastening effect on the chairman. "He's keeping a low profile this season," a local journalist said.

Ten-year plans have been shelved. "I think the chairman has realised that that's unattainable, given a club of this size," Mervyn Day, the manager, said. "Realistically, I think we could get to the first division, and when you get there — and start to get the £1 million from Sky, and with the young players we've got here from the youth set-up, which is exceptional — then who knows?"

In the meantime, along with the fantasy, there is some

Peter Ball on Carlisle's 1-1 draw with Mansfield that keeps them on top of the third division

Day, the relegated side is showing every sign of going straight back up again. Even though they lost Rod Thomas, who was sent off, perhaps harshly, for a second bookable offence, before half-time on Saturday, their injury-hit side took the point that kept them ahead of Fulham and Wigan Athletic at the top of the third division. In the process they played some excellent football, particularly after the arrival of Matt Jansen, 18, who is an asthmatic.

Jansen came on, inhaled in hand, to run at Mansfield Town's previously sound defence with considerable effect. "We're looking to bring him on slowly and nurture him fairly gently," Day said, "but he showed every quality what ability he has got."

Jansen is one of several young players coming up through a system that offers Carlisle's best hope for the future: the club, and their chairman's continuing optimism.

CARLISLE UNITED (3-2-2): A. Cox, D. Walling, J. Robinson, S. Farnsworth, T. Thomas, L. Peacock, S. Hayward, W. Aspinall, O. Robinson, D. Currie (sub), M. Jansen, 69, D. Reeves.

MANSFIELD TOWN (3-2-2): I. Bowling, S. Eustace, J. Dodson, S. Watkins, P. Sheiwick, S. Sedgmore, D. Hart (sub), I. Robinson, 21, J. Walker, S. Harper, S. Hadley (sub), I. Howard, 20, S. Wood.

ing guided Wycombe to their first win of the season in midweek, completed a welcome double when Steve McGavin's eighth-minute header accounted for Notts County.

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Equaliser leaves Machin cursing his luck

Gillingham 1
Bournemouth 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

ON SATURDAY'S evidence, you can see why Brian Moore, the television commentator, supports Gillingham: after the rarefied atmosphere of the European Cup Champions' League, a little rough and tumble must be a welcome change. However, the team and the methods which took the Gills from near extinction to promotion to the Nationwide League second division last season (winning few friends among neutrals) may need an overhaul, as Tony Pulis, their manager, admitted after a hard-fought draw with his former club.

"We look tired," he said. "We've got a small squad and are asking people to perform at their maximum twice a week: we need to improve the squad with a little more quality and a little more depth. The difference in this division is in both boxes — if you make mistakes you get punished. Having said that, we miss the two front players, Big Lee (Fortune-West) and Steve Butler, who are injured."

Fortune-West, in fact, drew the biggest cheer of the first half by limping along the touchline on crutches. Otherwise, the main centre of the crowd's attention was Andrew d'Urso, the referee. "An absolute disgrace," Pulis called him, although to the neutral, the teams rather than the referee seemed responsible for the flurry of yellow cards.

"The referee was very strong," Mel Machin, the Bournemouth manager, said by way of contrast. "They committed a lot of unnecessary fouls." From a free-kick awarded for one of those fouls, when Bryant brought O'Brien promising run on an untimely end, Bournemouth took the lead. Holland's quick-taken kick caught the defensive wall and goalkeeper, Stannard, unawares.

Play flowed more freely after the interval, mainly towards the Gillingham goal: the visitors, who have lost all their home games, looked quite at home playing away, and threatened to Omoiyimi, on loan from West Ham United, was in possession. So, when Ratcliffe's long shot, saved at full stretch by Glass, began a period of pressure during which Onuora equalised from a corner, it was a surprise to everyone — except Machin.

"It was going well with, he didn't have to save it," he said. "We lost the guy on the back post, it went someone on the back and hit in. That's been happening to us, especially at home — no luck at all."

Evergreen Nelson able to keep firm grip on Barnet

Barnet 0
Torquay United 0

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

GARRY NELSON, who has written a successful, much-praised book about the trials and tribulations of the journeyman footballer, made almost everyone else at Underhill look like a journeyman by comparison on Saturday.

It should not have been goalless. Thanks chiefly to Nelson — his intelligence, his invention, his inspired persistence up front — Torquay United were dominant nearly throughout, missing a superabundance of chances. Many were thrown away, some were thwarted only by the excellence of Barnet's best player, Malik Taylor, in goal. In the last minute, when Taylor was beaten by a strong, low shot from Hawthorn, Howarth kicked off the line.

Life may not have been easy for Nelson, but at 35 he made things appear simple in a way the young men around him in this Nationwide League third division match must have envied. Against a Barnet team unrecognisable from the galling side that pushed West Ham United hard in the Coca-Cola Cup, Nelson was a team in himself.

With one glorious turn, Nelson freed himself to put over a cross which Stamps headed against the bar. Five minutes later, Nelson's powerful, low shot was blocked by Taylor. Close to half-time, his cunning feint enabled Nidal to shoot, and Taylor to save, again. Banged into the boards by Pardew early in the second half, Nelson picked himself up, and went on bamboozling Barnet.

Although he made things look so easy, Nelson said: "It's much more difficult to play in the third division than the first. In this level, the quality of the service isn't what it is in the first division."

Nelson is coaching, too, and even dropped himself earlier in the season. "It was quite an interesting conversation, really, because I had to keep running round the table saying: 'In ten years' time, you'd understand. If I can go on doing what I did today, I think I've made the right decision,'" he said.

BARNET (3-4-3): M. Taylor, L. Priddy, L. Howarth, A. Pardew, D. McDonald, P. Simpson, P. Wilson (sub), M. Tomlinson, 77, S. Gale, L. Hodge (sub), G. Braz, 61, S. Dwyer, J. Campbell.

TORQUAY UNITED (3-5-2): R. Wither, L. Barrow, A. Wilson, J. Gifford, S. Winter, M. Hawthorn, C. Cahoon, I. Harpin, S. Stamps, G. Nelson, J. Nash (sub), E. Lacey, 67.

Queasy QPR smell something fishy

Grimsby Town 2
Queens Park Rangers 0

By MARK HODKINSON

THE omens were not good for Queens Park Rangers, not good at all. Before a ball had been kicked they were 6-1 down, and that was just the mascot count.

Grimsby Town fielded four regulation schoolboys but also had two ogres in oilskins. Mighty Mariner and his sinister, pint-sized doppelgänger, Mini Mariner. Heads wobbling, beards flapping in the wind, these fancy-dressed gargoyles positively spooked Rangers.

An away match at Grimsby, Barnsley, or Port Vale, is seen as the ultimate indignity for a team recently banished from the FA Carling Premiership. They are the games that distinguish the men from the boys, the monsters from the mascots.

The Queens Park Rangers players will have smelt Grimsby before they saw it. The road sign reads: "Welcome to Great Grimsby. Europe's food city," and then, on cue, a waft of foodstuffs being boiled or canned on a nearby industrial estate, sweeps across.

This strangely scented air did not agree with the visitors, especially in the first half. The lanky trio of McDonald, Plummer and Ready looked uncomfortable facing Grimsby's sure-footed Mendonca and Forrester. A hopeful ball into the penalty area was allowed to bounce free and, while the defenders tried to find their balance, Mendonca guided it into the goal.

Grimsby swarmed over Rangers and their habitual response was to send the ball skywards, in the rough direc-

tion of either Dichio, Sinclair or the North Sea.

Another goal was inevitable, though it came from an unusual source. The ball was partially cleared to Widdrington a few yards from the edge of the penalty area. Hitting the net seemed an impossibility, with the goal area packed and Sommer safely on his line. Widdrington met it squarely and it arched over everyone to a precise, almost pre-determined spot in the top corner of the net.

Seven minutes later, when the same player tried the same shot, he comfortably cleared the Osmond stand behind the goal, a feat met with an ironic cheer.

Stewart Houston, Rangers' hyperactive manager, scribbled away in a notebook as he fidgeted on the touchline. Presumably, he must have written "get stuck" in large letters, because his team did just that after the break. Sinclair had their best chance when he drove the ball fiercely towards goal, only for Livingstone to deflect.

Houston was upset that his team was galvanised only after falling two goals behind. "We are leaking goals and not scoring. We have to come to places like Grimsby and get results. We are going to try and put it right in training this week. We will work, work, work."

Grimsby, glamorous or not, already know this creed and blend it with not a little skill. Six mascots is merely a bonus.

GRIMSBY TOWN (4-2-2): J. Francis, J. McDonald, A. Felling, S. Livingstone, T. Gutteridge, G. Chalk (sub), N. Southern, 69, C. Shakespeare, T. Westington, N. Baid, C. Mendonca, J. Forrester (sub), N. Woods, 74.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-2-2): J. Sommer, K. Ready, C. Plummer (sub), D. Mackie, 47, A. McDonald, R. Breville, M. Graham, S. Baker, M. Boud, A. Impey (sub), M. Mahoney-Johnson, 76, T. Sinclair, D. Dichio.

In pursuit of guide to next step through promised land

Wycombe Wanderers 1
Notts County 0

By KEITH PIKE

WANTED: manager for progressive second division club with realistic ambitions: sound financial footing, superbly appointed stadium including new main stand and executive boxes. Team: adequate, but finding form. Excellent career prospects. Write to Ivor Beeks, chairman, Wycombe Wanderers FC (previous applicants need not apply... unless your name is Martin O'Neill).

And that, of course, is the problem. Having led Wycombe to the promised land of the Football League, along with three promotions and three Wembley appearances — all

victorious — in six heady years, O'Neill set the standard by which his successors will be judged and, when you are following a legend, as Alan Smith discovered when released last week after just 15 months in charge at Adams Park, there is often only one way you can go. It is not up.

Wycombe have come so far, so fast, that the first sign of a stutter was always likely to be construed in some quarters as confirmation that there was just one more small club with big pretensions. "We have been on a train journey, only we haven't stopped at any of the stations yet," Beeks said on Saturday. But have they hit the buffers? He says not.

Ten years ago Smith was in the Diadora League, and look at us now. We could not possibly continue to grow as quickly as we had. They

would not, he insisted, go the way of the likes of Barnet and Maidstone United. "There is no better-run club than Wycombe in the League," Beeks said. "A place in the Nationwide League first division by the turn of the century was still a reasonable and attainable goal."

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"The supporters have had several years of unparalleled success, but we knew it would have to stop some time," Beeks continued. "What we need now is a period of stability." Smith, it seems, could not provide it, although Beeks has considerable sympathy for the man he let go. There is such a level of expectation

that whoever replaced Martin was going to have a difficult time," he said. "He [O'Neill] had an aura about him and a wonderful rapport with the supporters. He took the club from A to B, but the step from B to C, the first division, is harder still."

Beeks's faith has been strengthened by the quality of those applying to succeed Smith. Five have considerable League experience, and while Ray Wilkins had distanced himself from speculation, the possibility of someone of Steve Coppell's stature arriving might be seen to confirm the standing of the fledgling club.

Beeks says he might take a month to mull over the possibilities, but in the meantime Neil Smillie is doing his own chances no harm. Reserve team coach under Smith, now acting as caretaker manager, Smillie, hav-

ing guided Wycombe to their first win of the season in midweek, completed a welcome double when Steve McGavin's eighth-minute header accounted for Notts County.

Smillie was non-committal about his intentions. "Things have gone well, and it is an enjoyable job when you are winning, but I have been in the job too long to take anything for granted," he said. "Me and the chairman will have a chat about it [the job], but on a sunny day like this, and with three points in the bag, there cannot be many better places to be." O'Neill would have agreed.

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Simon Barnes marvels at the Horse of the Year Show dressage competition

Harnessing the power, savouring the glory

Power. That is what the horse sports are all about. You ask anyone. "It's about domination, isn't it?" the non-horsey people will say. "Having power over some huge animal. Making it obey you. That's why you like it, isn't it?"

The horsey people — in every possible horsey discipline — also know in their hearts that their sport is about power. But it is not the power of rider over horse. It is about the power of the horse itself. It is about taking that colossal power of the horse and harnessing it. Or rather, bridling it. But you see what I mean. The horse sports do not subdue the power of the horse: they glory in it.

This is as true of Frankie Dettori, riding his seven winners on an enchanted afternoon last weekend, as it is of the competitors in the Grand Prix dressage event at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley on Saturday.

But, oddly enough, dressage has been the most colossal misunderstanding of all the horsey sports: not just by outsiders and anti-horsey people, but by horsey people themselves. It has become confused with the national stereotype of the German people: perhaps a traditional misunderstanding of the Germans has been at the heart of the British misconception of dressage.

"My horse will do what I want, because I make him like machine. So I use beastly cruel methods to have my way with him. He will obey!" But it is not like that at all, as the Brits are beginning to learn.

Watch the prize-giving ceremony, when the work is over, and the horses know it. And they do not obey at all. You have never seen such a scary, spooky bunch of beasts in your life: skittering over the Wembley Arena as if school was let out: the riders, all in their swallow-tailed coats, so tacitly concentrated before, now grinning and hanging on to their top hats.

Like the outfits, the sport itself is both absurd and perfect. It is the only horsey discipline in which mature stallions regularly compete at the highest level.

You might think dressage is for wimps; but do not tell these massive male animals. They look like equine Arnold Schwarzeneggers: but more muscled and rather more pleased with themselves.

You might also think that dressage is "unnatural". After all, it is about making a horse dance and spin in response to his rider's polite and tactfully-phrased requests. But watch a bunch of horses playing in a field: they will run through the gamut of the sport. A horse can and will spontaneously perform every movement in dressage.

All of which makes dress-



Davison, one of Britain's leading riders, competes on Askari at Wembley. "I thought I knew what dressage was about," he said. "I knew nothing."

sage, by a distance, the most wonderful and mysterious of horsey sports: a conundrum of communication: the subtly subtle work of the rider and the bounding athleticism and supple gymnastics of the horse.

So, naturally, the Grand

Prix dressage took place more or less behind closed doors, on Saturday morning, before the place had filled up. Competitors and their supporters — that was about it. "He's missed that transition into piaffe again," and the riders, living and dying in the arena, with

scarcely a soul to care. It is an acutely lonely business. I was reminded of a wonderfully ambiguous film review: "Four hours," it said, "of aching beauty." Grand Prix dressage is rather like that. It is glorious, it is perfect, but it is ever so slightly hard actually

to watch. On the other hand, an extraordinary amount of people actually do it.

This is a country with three million regular riders and six million occasional ones, and dressage is the fastest-growing sport of the lot. Dressage is a matter of ceaseless training

and endless involvement; precisely what many people seek from horses.

Dressage is also the basis of all good riding other than the galloping of racehorses, and the basis of all good training, including training for jumping.

Mathey's triumph is music to Belgian ears

By Jenny MacArthur

BRITISH riders proved no match for the fleet-footed Belgians on the last day of the Horse of the Year Show yesterday. Francois Mathey won the speed horse of the year event on Shurlands Governor with his compatriot Eric Wauters, the winner of the main event on the second night, taking second place on Isaura Vand de Helle.

The best performance by a Briton came from Michael Whitaker, the winner last year, who had to settle for third place on Elton after finishing nearly a second outside Mathey's time. His elder brother, John, who decided not to commute to the Bremen Classic in Germany yesterday after finishing outside the top ten in the opening round on Friday, lost his

chance of a fourth win here when Randi incurred four faults at fence seven.

Mathey, 26, attributed his lightning-fast round partly to the vociferous Wembley crowd. "They are different from other shows," he said. "They are more involved — it seems they are all riding with you."

Earlier in the day the crowd had voiced its disapproval with the outcome of the Volvo World Cup dressage qualifier, a freestyle-to-music competition won by the Canadian, Penny Rock, on her Addington winner, Winsome, with the Great Britain Olympic rider Richard Davison, on Askari, in second place. The event ended in uproar when the young German professional, Heiner Schiengen, who looked set to win after

an outstanding test on his young horse, Without A Doubt, was eliminated after a muddle over his music.

Schiengen, 26, the last to go, started his test only to find that the first part of the tape had been wiped off. He signalled for the music to stop and, after protracted discussions, his groom was dispatched to fetch a second tape.

Restarted after an eight-minute delay, Schiengen produced the most attractive test of the day, which was greeted as the winning one. It was then announced that he had exceeded the time allowed before starting.

Schiengen immediately appealed against his elimination but was unsuccessful. David Hunt, speaking for the appeal committee, said: "The riders are responsible for their tapes."

Schiengen was initially given two minutes by the judges to represent himself. He was then given a further two minutes but still did not start. In fairness to the other riders, the judges' original decision remains.

Geoff Billington produced one of the more lighthearted moments of the show in the Puissance competition on Saturday, in which he shared the first prize with John Whitaker, on Elanville, and Michael Whitaker, on Elton. In the penultimate round, Billington, ever the showman, scooped up a glass of champagne as he and Mancuso cantered past the viewing restaurant, downed the contents and then, to resounding cheers from the capacity 8,000 crowd, proceeded to jump clear over the 6ft 10in wall.

CYCLING

Boardman in form to regain title

By Peter Bryan

CHRIS Boardman and Yvonne McGregor, the British holders of the men's and women's world one-hour records, are in the first wave of the national team leaving today for the world road championships, which start in Lugano, Switzerland, on Wednesday.

Both want to improve on their Atlanta Olympic time-trial performances, where Boardman won silver and McGregor, well below her usual form, finished in fourth place.

McGregor will be the first of the pair to ride when she competes in Wednesday's 26.4 kilometre trial on an undulating course alongside Lake Lugano. "I'm fit now after a few days' final training in the Lake District and am also looking forward to the road race on Saturday," she said yesterday.

Boardman, who won the inaugural world time-trial title in 1994, races on Thursday in the 40.4 kilometre men's event.

Boardman goes to Switzerland after a remarkable run of success that started at the end of August with his world pursuit championship triumph, continued with the world one-hour record (56.375 kilometres at the Manchester velodrome), and ended, eight days ago, with a fifth international time-trial victory in as many weeks.

Never one to take the easy option, Boardman is mentally more relaxed now that Miguel Indurain of Spain has said he will not defend his title.

Adrenalin rises as leaders speed across Bay of Biscay

Lacy Duncan finds life tiring but exhilarating on global challenge

To think that I spent hours before the BT Global Challenge wondering what book or tape to take with me now seems faintly ludicrous. For during this past week, virtually every spare moment I've had has been grabbed for more sleep. Although I am accustomed to keeping strange hours as a midwife, having worked shifts for the past 15 years, nothing could have prepared me for the sheer exhaustion that sets in at the end of every watch. That's not a complaint, just a statement of fact.

It is an incredibly satisfying feeling to sink into a bunk and fall asleep within minutes. It's amazing what one can sleep through. One night we had a close encounter with a passing ship and I slept through an emergency spinnaker drop and several blasts on Con-Cert's foghorn.

After a week at sea, surrounded by blue ocean and dolphins, memories of the start are already hazy. Now that we are south of Spain, it's hard to imagine how wet, cold and rough it was in the Solent.

However, I know it must have been — because I wrote it all down the next day.

I remember the surge of adrenalin as the starting gun sounded, mixed with more apprehension than I have felt since my first contact with "real" patient as a student nurse. That proved to be insignificant compared with the feeling two days later when we crossed the Bay of Biscay in first place. I am by nature fairly competitive, but I had underestimated the remarkable effect of race position on crew morale.

For our period leading the pack, the excitement was huge and, even now in fourth place, we still feel we are doing well and life is good. As Chris Tibbs, our skipper, put it: "I feel for the boats at the back, but not much." Life would be

even better if Group 4, Toshiba or Commercial Union were becalmed.

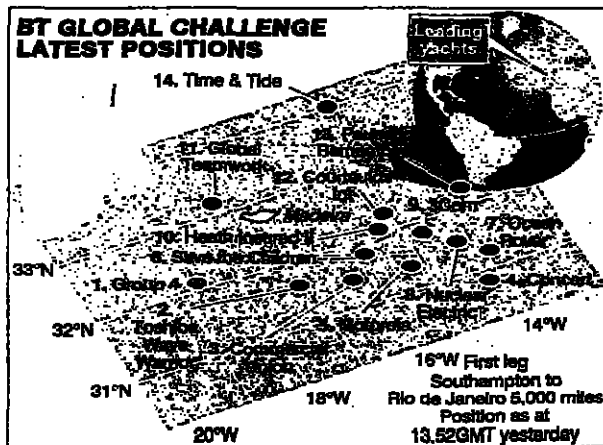
Despite our good start, it has not all been plain sailing. My problem with sleep pales beside that of Chris and Brian Beaumont, one of our two bowmen.

Chris is on 24-hour call and gets called rather a lot, while Brian's period of sleeplessness came as a result of a broken generator. Four days ago, it expired completely and then the engine, our alternative source of power, overheated. Brian, a software engineer, spent virtually all of his off-watch repairing it and hooking it up to the watermaker. This precipitated a stampede for the shower but saved us an unscheduled stop for repairs.

There is a standing joke on board, based on a previous article that had mentioned Matthew Fletcher (the other bowman) and Brian "preparing lunch" in the galley during a corporate day's sailing just before the start. This does not fit their image of rough, tough sailing types, but they are now saddled with the label "bowmen who make lunch".

The jibe at the bowmen is not entirely fair. One of my hazy memories of the start included the feeling of relief that I did not have to spend the entire time on the foredeck. Wet and cold is a pitifully inadequate description of conditions up there. Even in the Solent, the waves crashing against it can take your breath away — if you are not clipped on properly, they will take the rest of you away as well.

The feeling of unreality continues. Two weeks ago, I was working on the labour ward. Now I am in the middle of a yacht race and still feel as if it is happening to someone else.



BASKETBALL

Dunning a victim of life at the bottom

By Nicholas Harling

AS NICK NURSE yesterday basked in the glow of becoming the first coach in England this season to plot the downfall of London Towers, the Budweiser League champions, two of his contemporaries reflected on life's crueler twists.

Mark Dunning's dismissal by Hemel and Watford Royals made him the first coaching casualty of the season. His departure was confirmed shortly before Bob Donewald, the Leicester Riders coach, made an equally undignified exit from Hemel Hempstead's court. For telling the officials what he thought of them, Donewald was ejected from the Dacorum Centre in the second quarter.

Nurse's satisfaction had come from Birmingham Bulls' 69-62 victory over London Towers in the National Indoor Arena, the first meeting of the clubs since Tony Dorsey inspired the Bulls to their play-off triumph at Wembley last May. It took four new Americans to replace their exceptional compatriot adequately when Dorsey subsequently left for Bayreuth, in Germany. The individual flair is gone, but Nurse now has a sprightly unit.

"This was a gutsy, gutsy team performance," Nurse said after the Bulls had emerged from the adversity of Scott Wilke's half-time sickness in the locker room and Fabulous Flournoy's injuries. "I'll give you two days off if you give me 20 more minutes [on the court]," Nurse told Wilke — he duly obliged, scoring 20 points. Flournoy, who started with a bruised toe, sprained his ankle. "It was two different tape jobs on the same foot," Nurse said.

By slowing the game down through Nigel Lloyd in the backcourt and combatting the Towers' press, the Bulls made up a 15-9 deficit to lead by 24 points before Towers staged an inevitable rally. "It was pretty obvious what we were trying to do, but we happened to do it rather well," Nurse said.

Dunning's one-year stay at Hemel ended hours after their 122-56 defeat away to Sheffield Sharks on Friday — the worst loss of his career. He would have left of his own accord had Hemel lost again to Leicester the next night, but, in a phone call, Vince Macaulay-Razaq, the Hemel owner, beat him to it. "The team not being competitive was something I couldn't handle," Dunning said. Under Macaulay-Razaq's coaching, Hemel fared little better, succumbing 101-78 to the Riders, in spite of Donewald's curtailed contribution as coach.

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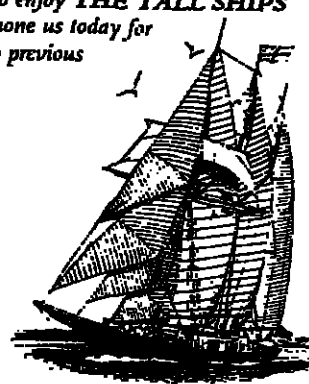
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FINAL SCORE

MEMBERSHIP

Hunt reigns as Lauda puts life before glory

The battle between Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve for the world drivers' championship will be resolved in Japan next weekend. Oliver Holt opens a series on dramatic conclusions in Formula One by recalling 1976

The downpour had lasted for most of the morning and Mount Fuji was lost in cloud. When the cars roared off the grid, hidden in a wall of spray, at the start of the Japanese Grand Prix, it looked as though a tidal wave was hurtling down the main straight, a giant flood washing away the firs of a season and dousing the fires that had almost consumed it.



helpless as a paper boat. Even going slowly, you could be washed away. After the second lap, I go into the pits. I am not going to drive because it is madness. It is just like murder out there. Sometimes I could not tell which direction the car was going. For me, there is something more important than the world championship.

Niki Lauda was back in the pack somewhere, his face still horribly scarred and pinched after his accident at the Nürburgring less than three months earlier, when flames had swallowed up his stricken Ferrari. Despite extensive burns and damage to his lungs, he had returned two races later, desperate to try to preserve what had once been a seemingly invincible 26-point championship lead.

TOMORROW
Nigel Mansell's tale: lucky to be alive rather than unlucky not to be world champion

The Austrian had competed in three races by the time that the Formula One circus arrived in Fuji for the last race of the season, the first in Japan. His lead, though, had been dramatically eroded by the swashbuckling performances of James Hunt, who was trying to become the first Briton to win the championship since Graham Hill eight years before. Lauda's advantage, in fact, was just three points.

On the second lap, he retired from the race. "I was thinking how stupid this race is," Lauda recounted. "On these streams, you are as

tion the car was going. For me, there is something more important than the world championship." Lauda's early exit left Hunt needing only to finish third to clinch the title, but after the chaotic season he had endured he was in a state of high anxiety. The atmosphere that year was similar to the one that prevailed in 1994, brimful of disaffection and arguments over rules, bursting with trauma and anger.

Hunt led for the first 61 laps of the 73-lap race, but from about the halfway stage, the rain had abated and the track had started to dry, causing tyres to wear more quickly. The more watchful attempted to preserve them by veering into puddles to keep them wet, but Hunt had eschewed that tactic and, on the 62nd lap, he was overtaken by the Tyrrell of Patrick Depailler and the Lotus of Mario Andretti.

For some laps, Hunt had been frantically waving to the pits each time he passed, desperate for guidance about when he should change tyres. There were no in-car radios then and Hunt mistook an arrow telling him to come in to the pits for a question mark, a signal



Hunt, left, and Lauda before the Japanese Grand Prix. Lauda pulled out after two laps, leaving Hunt to secure the world championship

that McLaren did not know what to do. Each lap he stayed out, the more his pursuers gained on him.

"I had known from before half-distance there would be tyre problems," Hunt said, "and I began to ask the McLaren pit what to do. If I had done it my way I would have been in at half-distance for new tyres and I would probably have won that race by a lap."

"The tyres, the tyres, that was the only thing I could think about. And I didn't want to make the decision. The team had all the information about the rate of tyre wear and they should have told me what to do. Their only response was the question mark, so the only thing I could do was stay out and that nearly cost me the championship."

Five laps from the end, with Hunt in third place, his McLaren's left front tyre disintegrated on the corner before the pit straight. He managed to limp into the pits, but his rear left tyre also had a slow puncture, so the mechanics could not get the jacks under that side of

the car and had to lift it bodily. His pit stop took 27 seconds.

Hunt did not know what position he was in when he emerged from the pits but, on fresh tyres, he was significantly quicker than the rest.

"The only thing I could do," he said, "was shut my eyes and floor it and

pass as many cars as I could." In one manoeuvre, he passed the Ferrari of Clay Regazzoni and the Surtees of Alan Jones on the outside of a still slippery bend.

On the next lap, as the sun was beginning to set, he was surprised to see the chequered flag being

waved at him. Distrustful of the signs that were being brandished at him from the McLaren personnel on the pit wall, he did not know in what position he had finished, whether he had won the title or not. Even when they told him he had finished third behind Andretti and Depailler and was world champion by one point, he refused to believe it.

"I was absolutely determined not to think I was world champion and then get disappointed," Hunt said. "There were 300 reasons why something should have gone wrong. After all the protests and disqualifications that season, anything might still happen."

"It was nearly dark by the time the podium presentations were over and I went into the press-room for a bit of a chat. When I came out, it was pitch black and everyone had gone. I reckoned that, even if anyone had wanted to do anything inside 48 minutes, 'I didn't have any chances against him.' Henman said. 'He just played too well.'"



Hunt learns that he has finished third and won the title by a point

TENNIS

Stark finds power to overcome Chang

By Our Sports Staff

MICHAEL CHANG, having defeated Greg Rusedski in the semi-final, was beaten in the final of the Singapore Open yesterday, going down 6-4, 6-4 to Jonathan Stark. It was a surprisingly straightforward victory for the qualifier from the United States.

Chang, on his own admission, had enjoyed some luck along the way before beating Rusedski, of Great Britain, 7-6, 6-3, and he could have no complaints about his loss to Stark, who took just 72 minutes to secure only the second title of his career.

Chang, the world No 2, who was seeking his eleventh win in Asia, could not cope with the fierce 131mph services of Stark, 25, who belied his world ranking of 101. Stark, in contrast, broke Chang's service twice, completing the match with two aces, the second his fifteenth in the final.

Rusedski, who had led 4-1 in the first-set tie-breaker, gave Chang credit for his resilience. "Michael played some good points in the tie-breaker at 4-4. I missed a simple approach, and at 5-6 he guessed right," Rusedski said.

"It was just a little luck in the match that made the difference. Michael is No 2 and he proved that. He played the big points well."

Like Rusedski, Tim Henman's hopes of an ATP Tour victory were ended at the semi-final stage, when he was beaten 6-1, 6-3 by Yevgeny Kafelnikov in Lyons.

The French Open champion, defeated by Henman at the start of the Briton's run to the Wimbledon quarter-finals, went on to claim the title yesterday — his fourth of the season — by beating Arnaud Boetsch, of France, 7-5, 6-3.

Kafelnikov, the No 2 seed, needed just 23 minutes to take the first set against Henman as he capitalised on his rival's errors. The Russian ran off five consecutive games, and although Henman rallied in the second set, Kafelnikov went on to complete his victory inside 48 minutes. "I didn't have any chances against him," Henman said. "He just played too well."

Why Lord's is planning to encourage queue-jumping

That normally sedate body — the MCC membership — has been stirred into revolt twice in the past few months by its own executive committee. Lord's cricket ground desperately needs upgrading and MCC has unveiled plans for a new £30 million grandstand. At the same time, Lord's is also planning to add a new £2.6 million media centre at the Nursery End.

Radical change is rarely popular at private members' clubs. Lord's is no exception, so it is, perhaps, almost inevitable that some members would want to air their grievances.

The new media centre has drawn their ire because of its futuristic design. Equally, there has been concern about the role of NatWest, which already contributes heavily to the sport through its sponsorship of the NatWest Trophy one-day competition, in funding the development. MCC has, however, had to seek such controversial methods of finance because its membership system limits the amounts it can raise in a normal year.

On the face of it, Lord's



should be rolling in money. It has a monopoly on one-day finals and guaranteed Test and one-day international income, but most of its £5 million-worth of annual ticket income has been paid direct to the Test and County Cricket Board. The club also earns income from other sources, such as catering and broadcasting rights, but that is insufficient to finance the redevelopment.

Ironically, it is the Lord's members' continuing reluctance to allow female members that has forced the MCC to take drastic action. Lord's applied for a Sports Council grant but was turned down, in part because the veto on

women members meant that Lord's contravened Sports Council guidelines.

To try to raise instant cash, Lord's has been forced to turn to its members. MCC is giving existing members the chance to become life members, with the price set according to the member's age: from £4,000 for those born after 1957 to £1,750 for members who are 60 or over.

It is the plan to seek additional funding by offering a new, instant, life membership, that has prompted most controversy. Like all the best private clubs, you can only succeed to MCC membership by winning the support of a proposer and seconder and then waiting for a membership vacancy to arise. Since death is normally the only time existing members relinquish their MCC membership, the waiting-list is famously long. At present there are around 9,500 people in the queue, meaning an average wait of around 20 years. Now 250 people are going to have the chance of jumping the queue by paying £10,000 for the privilege of life membership — adding £2.5 million to the MCC's coffers.

In a country that has made a virtue of orderly waiting-lists, queue-jumping was never going to be popular. As MCC has pointed out, however, it is not the first time Lord's has employed this tactic to raise money. In 1864, 26 life members provided £780 to buy out the original lease of the ground. In 1899, 200 people on the waiting-list paid £200 for instant membership to help to finance the building of the Mound Stand and clock tower, while in 1924 the same system was again used to help build the grandstand.

The £10,000 figure has been derived using the same formula employed to determine queue-jumping membership in the past — 66 times the annual membership fee. Surprisingly, MCC seems to have found a way of reconciling its private club tradition with the hefty financial demands of the Lord's ground's position as the premier stadium in the cricket world today.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

FOOTBALL

Chapple in no mood for excuses

Working 2
Macclesfield Town 3

By WALTER GAMMIE

GEOFF CHAPPLE has lifted Woking from the lowest reaches of the Isthmian League to the forefront of the Vauxhall Conference in a 12-year run of success at Kingfield.

Having ensured the ground will pass muster by completing a new stand and having finished second in the Conference last season, the demands on him to maintain the momentum and take Woking the final step into the Football League are understandable.

So, after defeat by Macclesfield Town on Saturday left Woking 11 points adrift of Stevenage Borough, the leaders, Chapple was in no mood to spare himself or his team.

"It was not good enough," he said. "Two or three players are just not performing as they should. If we don't get an improvement, I've got to move things before they move me. I'm the man to do it."

Macclesfield spurned an early chance when Steve Wood missed a penalty, and then admirable control and a neat finish by Clive Walker gave Woking the lead in the 33rd minute. But it was wiped out by half-time. Wood (thumping the ball in after repeated failures to clear a corner. Williams then raced away for the second after a dawdling Jones was caught in possession.

Wood was given all the time and space he could wish for to make it 3-1 in the 82nd minute, and although Steele fired an immediate reply, Macclesfield had too much know-how to allow Woking the possession to sustain a final assault that may have fired up their muted supporters.

Woking (5-3-2) J Gregory, R Taylor, K Brown, C Fidler (sub S Steele, 60min), L Palmer (sub T Howard, 48), D Timothy, A Ellis (sub S Garner, 77), T Jones, S Thompson, D Hay, C Walker.
MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-3) R Price, C Eady, N Howard, S Payne, M Bradshaw, J Askey (sub S Carroll, 69), N Sarvel, S Wood, A Hemmings — F Mannion, C Williams (sub P Power, 70).
Referee: J Pettit.

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Problems mount on two fronts for Irish

London Irish 31
Bath 56

By ALISON KERVIN

JUST when you thought it was safe to turn on the television and read the newspapers — it's back. The endless meanderings of the club v country debate are with us once again, albeit in a new guise. Instead of English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Limited v the Rugby Football Union, it is London Irish versus the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU). This time we venture into the hitherto uncharted waters of club v provinces.

In a nutshell, London Irish are being pressured by the IRFU to release their Ireland players for provincial duty in the European Cup, which starts this weekend. The exiles are extremely reluctant to comply with these wishes, not least because they, too, are competing in Europe and see a direct conflict of interests.

"We want to work with the provinces, but believe it would be unfair to provide players for the other sides competing in Europe, when we are competing ourselves," Duncan Leopold, chief executive of London Irish, said. "After all," he added, mimicking the words of the English club executives, "it is we who pay the salaries."

So, against this colourful backdrop, and with the prospect of flying to Ireland straight after the match for international squad training, Jeremy Davidson, standing in for the injured Gary Halpin, led his team out at Sunbury on Saturday to face a dynamic, resurgent Bath, who looked every inch the defending Courage club champions.

Bath were back to their very best in this encounter. Guscott was in startling form. His flair, coupled with Carr's reading of the game, drove Bath to victory. The other revelation was the form of the two Bath wings. An outstanding combination of Robinson, who looked dangerous whenever the ball came near him, and the supremely talented Adelayo, who must surely be in the running for an England place next month, rocked the London Irish defence.

In contrast, the home side seemed out of sorts, even when in possession and on the attack. The downside for Bath was losing two key players through injury. Nicol and de Glanville left the field during the game and are likely to be out for the next few weeks. Bath's strength in depth will be tested to the full without them, but if there is more strength like that displayed by Nicol's replacement, Charlie Harrison, then they have nothing to fear.

Bath never eased off from their opening score, a try by Callard, to their two wings running in five tries between them. Also in the scoring line-up were Webster, Guscott and Redman, the lock. The London Irish tries came from Briers, O'Shea and Walsh, O'Shea completing the scoring with his second of the day.

Now London Irish have to contemplate their fifth defeat in six games, while analysing how best to deal with their IRFU negotiations. Rumours that Ireland will ignore any player who opts out of provincial duties adds confusion to yet another political debate in which the players are being used as pawns.

SCORES: London Irish: Tries: O'Shea (2), Briers, Walsh. Conversions: Humphreys (4). Penalty goal: Humphreys. Bath: Tries: Adelayo (2), Robinson (2), Callard, Webster, Guscott, Redman. Conversions: Callard (4). Penalty goal: Callard.

LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, N Woods, R Henderson, P Flood, J Bannor, D Humphreys, N Briers, J Fitzpatrick, R Kellam, L Mooney, A Douglas, G Fletcher, J Davidson, N Davidson, B Walsh. Dawson replaced by R Yeatsley (85min).

BATH: J Callard, J Robinson, P de Glanville, A Guscott, A Adelayo, M Carr, A Nicol, K Yates, G Adams, V Ubogu, N Thomas, N Redman, M Haug, R Whitham, S Omondi, Nicol replaced by C Harrison (11min), de Glanville replaced by M Perry (65).

Referee: R Ramsay (Scotland)

RUGBY UNION: AMBITIOUS ITALIANS MAKE STRONG ARGUMENT FOR RECOGNITION IN TENSE CONTEST

Wales struggle to maintain their grip

Italy 22
Wales 31

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN ROME

GIANCARLO DONDI already has one political feather in his cap, since Rome is hosting the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) meeting for the first time this week. The Italian Rugby Federation's new president almost had another on Saturday, as he watched his side haul themselves back into the contest with Wales at the Stadio Olimpico here, only to let the advantage slip.

Doni, for many years the Italy tour manager overseas, has set the goal of joining the five nations' championship during his tenure of office and he knows he has the sympathetic ear of Vernon Pugh, the IRFB chairman. Not only that, Italian teams over the past few years have proved capable of mixing it with the home unions and even with Australia, whom they play in Padova in just over a fortnight: one further impressive set of results this season would look persuasive indeed.

Yet, for all Italy's ambition, this was far from their best display in recent seasons. Georges Coste, their coach, could not cover up the lack of match practice since the side last played, in March, while Wales had the advantage of meetings with the Barbarians and France already. When Italy arrive at Twickenham on November 23, the boot will be on the other foot.

By then, Italy expect that Julian Gardner, their Australian-born flanker, will be fit and the rift between Coste and Marcello Cuttitta, will be mended. Cuttitta was largely overlooked during the World Cup last year and retired in a huff; now his younger brother, Massimo, who is the Italy captain, has helped to patch up matters and the spring-heeled wing may grace Twickenham as he has in the past.

Curiously, it was on the flanks that Italy were most exposed: they offered a competitive back row and a well-organised midfield, only to themselves down on the few occasions that Wales raided down the touchlines. The beneficiaries were Dafydd James and Gareth Thomas, the Bridgend players who had



Thomas, the centre, dives over in the corner for the second Wales try during their defeat of Italy in Rome. Photograph: Dave Rogers/Allsport

little to be ashamed of on a day when the Wales management were left to shake their heads in despair at their team's capacity to self-destruct.

"It's difficult to understand why we should dissipate a lead so frequently," Terry Cobner, the Wales director of rugby, said. Cobner acknowledged the difficulty that his players appeared to have in lifting themselves before a crowd of no more than 15,000, but gone are the days when Wales can afford to take Italy lightly.

Just as they did against France last month, Wales raced into an early lead — this time of 13 points — only to be hauled in like a fish gasping for water. On a mild Roman

afternoon, however, they could not offer the same invention that they displayed in Cardiff and lost their grip at the lineout and in the loose, where countless balls were spilt in the tackle. Kevin Bowring, their coach, still cries out for greater physical presence from the back row and there are hints that not only Richard Webster, fit again after a knee injury, but Dale McIntosh may be considered there.

McIntosh, the New Zealander who has played so consistently for Pontypridd at No 8, flirted with Scotland four years ago and managed an A appearance; now he is on the verge of residential qualification for his adopted Wales

and, after low-key games by Steve Williams, his time may come in December, assuming that the game with Australia is played. To be fair, Williams was hindered by an ankle injury acquired early in the game and may have been better advised to leave the pitch.

Wayne Proctor did leave it, on a motorised stretcher after an aerial collision with Paulo Vaccari. The Wales full back came off worse in a clash of heads and required a precautionary scan — he suffered concussion and must rest for the mandatory three weeks — which left Leigh Davies substituting in an unfamiliar position. Whether Proctor would have made a better fist

of defending his line when Diego Dominguez kicked on a loose ball is a matter for debate but Italy were unlucky that Orlandi was not awarded a try that, with the conversion, would have given them a one-point lead with less than ten minutes to play.

They had already recovered to lead 22-21 going into the final quarter, which at least sparked a response from Wales: Gibbs blasted a hole in the Welsh defence and Thomas charged through for his second try in what was his eleventh game of the season, far too many in so short a time for one of his country's few obvious assets. That Jenkins, shaded in the kicking duel with Dominguez, was able to add a little gloss

with an injury-time penalty was scant justice for Italy.

SCORES: Italy: Try: Francesco Costantini. Conversions: Dominguez. Penalty goals: Dominguez (5). Wales: Tries: Thomas (2), James. Conversions: Jenkins (2). Penalty goal: Jenkins (4).

ITALY: M Roversi (Calvesano), P Vaccari (Calvesano), S Bordon (Rovigo), I Franceschini (Treviso), L Martini (Treviso), D Dominguez (Milan), A Tronconi (Treviso), M Cuttitta (Milan, captain), C Orlandi (Milan), F Proctor (Cardiff), A Spolton (Treviso), P-P Padroni (Milan), D Scaglia (Treviso), O Arancio (Milan), C Checchinato (Treviso). Vaccari replaced by J Partile (Roma, 60min); Checchinato replaced by R Rampazzo (Padova, 72); Proctor replaced by A Costantini (Treviso, 81).

WALES: W T Proctor (Llanelli), S D Hill (Cardiff), G Thomas (Bridgend), J S Gibbs (Swansea), D James (Bridgend), N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Howley (Caerphilly), D Loefer (Swansea), J M Humphreys (Cardiff, captain), J D Davies (Neath), H T Taylor (Cardiff), G D Lewis (Llanelli), D Jones (Cardiff), K P Jones (Ebbw Vale), S M Williams (Neath), Proctor replaced by S Davies (Cardiff, 57min); M E Williams (Pontypridd) temporarily replaced by K P Jones (17-19).

Referee: C Spennberg (South Africa)

Saracens teach below-par Bristol some home truths

Bristol 11
Saracens 21

By JOHN HOPKINS

THERE are compliments that are well meant but meaningless, and compliments that are unexpected and more valid for being so. When Rob Cunningham, the Saracens coach, said that persuading Alan Davies to coach Bristol represented the best piece of recruitment the West Country club had ever done, then there was a compliment that clearly fell into the latter category.

There is no doubting the ability of Davies, the former Wales coach, but even he was unable to conjure up what would have been a fourth Courage Clubs Championship victory of the season for his team.

Apart from the first ten minutes, when Robert Jones orchestrated Bristol's every move, it all seemed too frantic. It was as if they thought they had half as much time as they really did. They were so keen to do well, they even did the bad things badly," Davies observed.

Most of Bristol's deficiencies stemmed from the back-row. David Corkery was not fully match-fit and Eben Rollitt, at 6ft 3in, is a crucial two inches shorter than many No 8s. Bristol did not win as much ball as Saracens and they did

not recycle what ball they won as cleanly or as well.

At the end, the wonder was that there were only ten points in it. The second half was so one-sided that Saracens could have won by 20 points. The Londoners even ended the match with a dazzling series of moves that lasted nearly two minutes in all, while Andy Lee missed a sitter of a dropped goal attempt.

Tony Diprose, the Saracens No 8, and Richard Hill and Gary Clark, the flankers, are a formidable unit and, of course, any back-row should look good in attack. Even so, one lost count of the number of times that Diprose got the ball, took it forward and then managed to make it available.

Add to this a sound performance from Kyran Bracken at scrum half, against his former



Bracken: consistent

club, and it is not difficult to see why Saracens won and why Jack Rowell, the England coach, and Murray Kidd, his Ireland counterpart, must have left the Memorial Ground with much to think about.

"In every successful side of his, Jack has had men who can make decisions for him on the field," Cunningham said. "He had it at Gosforth; he had it at Bath with John Horton, John Hall and Stuart Barnes; and he used to have it with England. He has not got it at the moment. He wants guys who can change a game, like Kyran. Week in and week out, he is the most consistent scrum half in England."

Diprose's all-purpose performance cannot have failed to have caught Rowell's eye, either. "Tony Diprose is the best ball-playing back-row forward in the country," Mark Evans, the director of coaching at Saracens, enthused. "He can put players through a gap. An England back-row of Dallaglio, Sheasby and Diprose would be really something."

SCORES: Bristol: Try: Tony Diprose. Conversions: Tunningsley, Lee. Bristol: P Hill, D Tuel, F Waters, M Denney, B Bessie, P Balle, R Francis, A Sharp, M Rogers, K Funnell, I O'Brien, S Shaw, P Adams, D Corkery, E Rollitt.

SARACENS: A Tunningsley, C Chesney, P Sala, S Ravenscroft, R Walker, A Lee, R Bracken, A Daly, G Bottomman, P Wallace, G Clark, P Johns, A Copey, R Hill, A Diprose. Tunningsley replaced by C Okey (70min).

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

Smith sees red as Sale pay penalty for unruly play

Northampton 30
Sale 12

By BRYAN STILES

A REFEREE'S lot is rarely a happy one and Brian Campsall admitted that he had not had a good day at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday. It ended with four players being shown yellow cards and another sent off.

All the offenders came from the front row of the scrum and highlighted the difficulties that a referee faces when players ignore his warnings and play outside the rules. "It was a difficult game in the front row," he said with some understatement. "We did not get cooperation and I went down a particular route but it did not work. It tended to spoil the game. Perhaps I should have sent a player off earlier. I appealed to them, but ..."

Andrew Smith, the Sale tight-head prop, was the player who left the battle early — "he kneed him [Chris Johnson] in the ribs as we were setting up a scrum," according to Campsall, who several times held up play to warn the front rows of the consequences if they persisted in their activities, which often resulted in scrums collapsing and endangering players.

John Mitchell, Sale's New Zealand coach, felt his side got on the wrong side of the referee out of frustration at being unable to break down the resolute Northampton defence. "I hope we have got our worst game out of our system," he said. "We conceded silly penalties. In the space of nine minutes, we made eight errors at one stage."

Mitchell would have been in the thick of things on the field if the Department for Education and Employment had not ruled that he still cannot have a permit to play, only to coach. Sale are now going to employ the solicitors who persuaded the department that Va'anga Tuigamala could play for Wasps.

Sale certainly need the calming influence of someone like Mitchell on the field if they are to progress. They had one try disallowed and a penalty in front of the posts

reversed because players were spotted stamping by touch judges. Apart from that, Sale had spurned a number of opportunities that would have brought them victory.

They had nothing on the board by half-time, when they should have had at least 13 points. Instead, they handed points on a plate to Grayson by giving away penalties in easy kicking range. The England stand-off half collected three penalty goals and a dropped goal to give Northampton a 12-0 interval lead.

Mallinder, Sale's splendid captain, gave them hope with a powerful breakthrough that brought him a try three minutes into the second half, but Grayson was on target again. Beal burst through for a fine try and Grayson scored another dropped goal.

In a late Sale flurry, Ryan scored a breakaway try and Verbeek converted, but Clarke touched down for Grayson to collect his twentieth point of the match.

SCORES: Northampton: Tries: Beal, Clarke. Conversions: Grayson. Penalty goals: Grayson (4). Dropped goals: Grayson (2). Sale: Tries: Mallinder, Ryan. Conversions: Verbeek.

NORTHAMPTON: N Beal, C Mow, G Townsend, M Allen, H Thompson, P Grayson, M Oliver, M Whelan, C Johnson, M Hynes, D MacKinnon, J Phillips, S Frole, A Pountney, T Rodger MacKinnon replaced by S Valsecchi (37min). Johnson replaced by A Clarke (75).

SALE: J Mallinder, D Rees, J Broadwell, G Steele, S Verbeek, N Ryan, M Warren, P Smith, S Diamond, A Smith, D Ebdon, Baldwin, J Fowler, A Morris, C Wyman. Smith replaced by P Winstanley (27min).

Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire)

reversed because players were spotted stamping by touch judges. Apart from that, Sale had spurned a number of opportunities that would have brought them victory.

They had nothing on the board by half-time, when they should have had at least 13 points. Instead, they handed points on a plate to Grayson by giving away penalties in easy kicking range. The England stand-off half collected three penalty goals and a dropped goal to give Northampton a 12-0 interval lead.

Mallinder, Sale's splendid captain, gave them hope with a powerful breakthrough that brought him a try three minutes into the second half, but Grayson was on target again. Beal burst through for a fine try and Grayson scored another dropped goal.

In a late Sale flurry, Ryan scored a breakaway try and Verbeek converted, but Clarke touched down for Grayson to collect his twentieth point of the match.

SCORES: Northampton: Tries: Beal, Clarke. Conversions: Grayson. Penalty goals: Grayson (4). Dropped goals: Grayson (2). Sale: Tries: Mallinder, Ryan. Conversions: Verbeek.

NORTHAMPTON: N Beal, C Mow, G Townsend, M Allen, H Thompson, P Grayson, M Oliver, M Whelan, C Johnson, M Hynes, D MacKinnon, J Phillips, S Frole, A Pountney, T Rodger MacKinnon replaced by S Valsecchi (37min). Johnson replaced by A Clarke (75).

SALE: J Mallinder, D Rees, J Broadwell, G Steele, S Verbeek, N Ryan, M Warren, P Smith, S Diamond, A Smith, D Ebdon, Baldwin, J Fowler, A Morris, C Wyman. Smith replaced by P Winstanley (27min).

Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire)

Leicester turn to pack and force a decision

West Hartlepool 19
Leicester 30

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT WAS a hotch-potch affair of two outside halves at Brierton Lane, one maddeningly eccentric, the other infuriatingly conservative. Together, Mark Ring, the West Hartlepool director of rugby, and Rob Liley, his Leicester adversary in the No 10 shirt, summed up their side's respective failings.

Ring will try anything except the obvious. Sometimes it pays off. More often it rebounds on his team. Sprayed passes, misdirected kicks and, just occasionally, a masterly intervention, as in a chip placed over Underwood's head and the opening try by Stephen John from the resulting chaos in the Leicester ranks.

Liley is out of a different mould. The sort of player whose creative qualities are minimal but who niggles away at opponents (and anyone who longs for adventure) with persistent touch kicking. With him as playmaker, it is little wonder that Leicester still turn to their pack.

Significantly, none of the three Leicester tries stemmed from broken play, whereas West's trio did. Leicester boast that they can play different types of games but do not have the evidence to prove it. One problem will be resolved next month, with the return from suspension of Neil Back, who can get the link between forwards and backs going, but stand-off half is where Leicester cry out for inspiration.

As uncompromising and occasionally exciting as West can be, the reality after the

Full results and league tables ... Page 40

opening section of the league season is that they are already into a relegation scramble. A team half made-up of Welsh players is never likely to give up, but living off scraps of possession, as they did on Saturday, is no winning diet.

At the set pieces, Leicester helped themselves. Neither Richards nor Johnson was especially missed. Fletcher, alongside the experienced Poole, dominated the lineout on a pleasing debut. The pressurised home-side scrum deliberately collapsed for a penalty try away and, on the one occasion that Drake-Lee was not attempting to tackle everything in sight, he took Healey's quick tap for a try.

In a deeply unsatisfying contest, neither side maintained cohesion or continuity. Healey, a fish out of water in an unambitious Leicester side, always looked capable of lighting the blue touchpaper — he gave Harvey, his diminutive scrum half opponent, a torrid time — but his counter-attacks petered out for want of support.

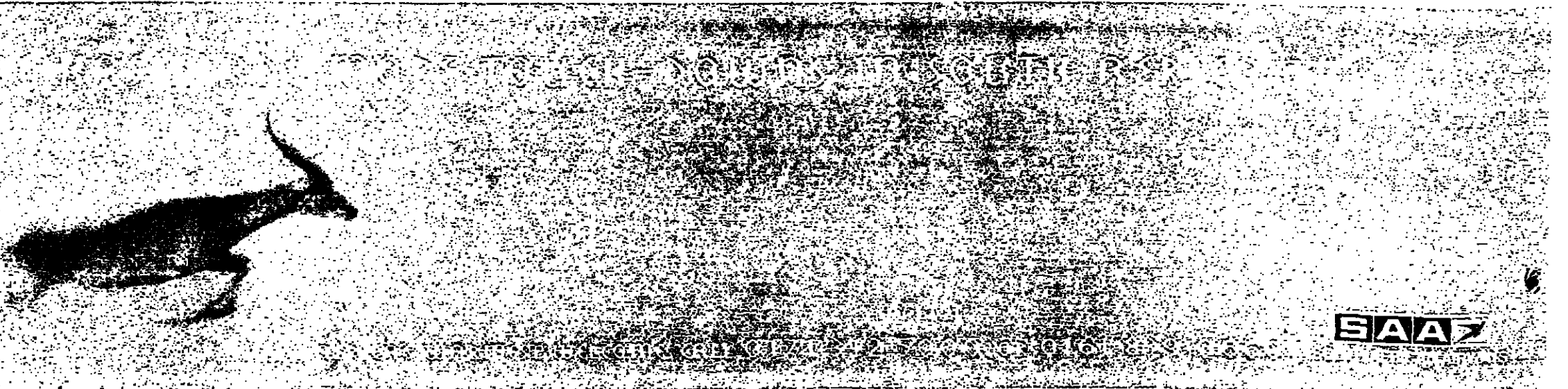
Ring's quick switch was responsible for the first of Wood's two touchdowns, when West led 12-3, before Leicester's three rapid strikes. The last one, in the opening minute of the second half, was decisive, as Rob Liley's dropped goal attempt ricocheted back off the posts and into the path of Greenwood for the simplest of tries. John Liley's place-kicking did the rest of the damage.

SCORES: West Hartlepool: Tries: Wood (2), S John. Conversions: C John (2). Leicester: Tries: Drake-Lee, Greenwood, penalty try. Conversions: J Liley (3). Penalty goal: J Liley.

WEST HARTLEPOOL: M Silva, M Wood, S John, C John, G Trueman, M Ring, P Harvey, W de Jongh, A Peacock, J Hartland, A Tait, D Mitchell, C Hall, A Brown, J Ions. Hart replaced by A Rees (40min). Silva replaced by K Oghant (55). Hartland replaced by P Whitlock (55).

LEICESTER: J Liley, S Hussey, S Poole, W Greenwood, R Underwood, R Liley, A Healey, G Rownson, R Coddell, D Gifford, J Wells, N Fletcher, M Poole, E Miller, W Drake-Lee.

Referee: E Morrison (Bristol)



Where professional game's expansion is missing the point



Andrew, whose points tally emphasised the gap between the haves and have-nots

ENTERTAINMENT is one thing, humiliation is another and the two clubs that on Saturday conceded 100 points in the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship will not have enjoyed the experience. The only comfort for Nottingham is that defeat by 102-22 against Coventry was overshadowed by Newcastle's 156-5 rout of Rugby Lions.

It goes without saying that such a margin is a record for the national leagues, surpassing the 91 points scored by Harlequins against West Hartlepool last season. Indeed, Harlequins almost erased that mark themselves by scoring 89 points against Orrell in the first division but such riotous rugby will have left many spectators dissatisfied, never mind the players on the receiving end.

Sport must be competitive or it is nothing and the first effect of professionalism will be to sort out the men from the boys, the rich from the poor, the haves from the have-nots. "No one with their eyes open could have had any doubt that this would happen," Rob Andrew, the Newcastle director of rugby who kicked 18 conversions from 24 against Rugby, said. "You only had to see what was happening overseas, or remember what happened when the Australian rugby league sides of the early

1980s toured. Any side with ambition will try to catch up and what we now have in union is a series of mismatches between professionals and amateurs. There is no other way to describe it."

The process was beginning last season, when the better-funded, or more far-sighted, clubs perceived the way rugby had to go. Northampton, a pike in the trout pond of the second division, racked up the

points and to a degree London Irish went with them; in the first division Bath and, occasionally, Harlequins, sat themselves and matches in the first six weekends of the season averaged 39 points.

The first five weeks of this season saw an average of 57 a match and the events this weekend in the second division — Saturday offered a tally of 91 points a match — have boosted the match average

to nearly 61. There is no doubt that spectators are getting more action for their money, but that does not always mean value for money, and Andrew believes that it will take two years for the English game to achieve the balance it lacks.

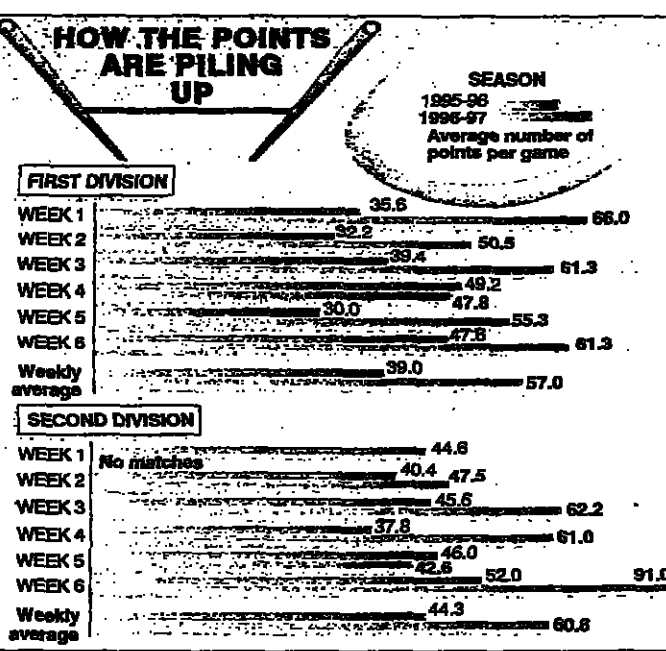
"When you have two well-matched teams — as in our game with Richmond — the outcome is different to some of the high-scoring games we have seen this season," Andrew said. "Professionalism means you are bigger, faster, fitter, stronger and your skill levels are higher because you have the time to practise them."

"The law changes mean there are more opportunities to score tries and you have to give credit to our referees, who are now among the best in the world. It's not a question of poor defending — the Super 12 showed that — but there is more space and the laws favour the attacking side."

"But these basketball scores are not good for the game. The players don't enjoy them and we must be aware of turning the public off, because they know when they are not seeing a contest. What we will end up with is a fully-professional first division, possibly of eight clubs, and a semi-professional second division open to those sides with the enthusiasm, the ambition and the ability to secure funding — but what we don't need is clubs losing heart when they see the guts ripped out of their team."



Robbie Paul scored two tries in the destruction of Orrell by Harlequins



RUGBY UNION

Gloucester rediscover their pride and passion

Gloucester.....28
Wasps.....23

By GERALD DAVIES

KINGSHOLM remains a forbidding ground for any team, of whatever reputation, to visit. Wasps found it so yesterday. They arrived, unbeaten, to play a Gloucester team who had yet to know what it was to savour victory this season. That sweet taste returned yesterday.

This was a tough match, although the referee need not have used the red card. In the 68th minute, Kevin Dunn was sent off for using his studs on the back of another player. Sims and Dallaglio had been embroiled in a confrontation before the touch judge drew the referee's attention to the original sin.

It had been a rumbustious start by the home team, where the driving influence of the forwards, running off the sides of rucks and mauls, unsettled the visitors. Wasps hardly touched the ball.

The pressure was unrelenting. Given four chances to convert penalties, Gloucester ran three and chose a scrum for the fourth. They were in danger of not rewarding their efforts; but they saw sense and Mapletoft kicked a penalty goal in the eleventh minute.

Two minutes later, on their first visit to the Gloucester 22, Wasps drew level with a penalty goal by Rees. Gloucester responded immediately. Greening took the narrow route on the blind side of a ruck and linked up with Saverimutto, who scored.

A good deal of hard graft up front had created this platform and the Gloucester lead. Fidler was dominant at the lineout. Windo and Deacon were well in the vanguard of a rampaging pack. But, by and large, the visitors' defence

held. Having survived all this, Wasps established, for a brief moment, a foothold in Gloucester territory and narrowed the deficit. For the home supporters, it must have been exasperating.

Wasps came back to score a good try. A drive close to a maul near the Gloucester 22-metre line, a long pass from King to Rees and the full back's neat chip landed just over the line for Scrase to score. For all their dominance, Gloucester were only a point ahead at half-time.

Within three minutes of the restart, the Wasps defence, which hitherto had been organised, appeared dishevelled. Catling, emerging in no-man's land in midfield and 30 metres out, glided through three attempts to hold him. The tackles faded and the full back ran on to score.

Try as King might to weave some intricate patterns in midfield, the visitors rarely succeeded in making ground. Gloucester were not interested in trying anything so subtle. This was the Gloucester of old. Benton and Mapletoft encouraged a rampant pack with subtle kicks and close passing to move them forward.

The tension grew, so did the impatience. Dunn was sent off and Mapletoft extended the home team's lead. Down to 14 men, Wasps enjoyed their most sustained period of pressure, which saw Gomersall cross over for a try, converted by Rees. Mapletoft kicked his sixth goal to secure the match.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Three: Saverimutto, Catling. Penalty goals: Mapletoft. Wasps: Three: Scrase, Gomersall. Conversions: Rees, King. Penalty goals: Rees (3).

GLoucester: C Catling, A Lumsden, A Saverimutto, M Roberts, M Lloyd, M Mapletoft, S Benton, T Windo, P Greening, A Deacon, N Carter, D Sims, P Greening, S Deveney, Gantville replaced by E Pease (injury).

WASPS: G Rees, L Scrase, N Greenstock, A James, S Foster, A King, A Gomersall, D Mapletoft, A Dunn, W Green, D Catling, D Cronin, M Greenwood, M White, P Scrase, S Saverimutto, replaced by R King (injury). Rees replaced by D Mauer (88). White replaced by P Sampson (79). Rees: D Chapman (Northampton).



Deacon, the Gloucester prop, feels the force of a double tackle by Dallaglio, left, and Gomersall during the West Country team's victory at Kingsholm yesterday

Turner's sketch in need of colour

Bedford.....25
Wakefield.....19

By NICOLAS ANDREWS

FRANK WARREN has a couple more surprises up his sleeve. As record-breaking scores elsewhere proved that the gap between haves and have-nots has become a yawning chasm, Bedford's new benefactor committed his club to a place on the comfortable side of rugby's great divide.

He intends to reveal two new signings in the next few days, from the southern hemisphere, to ensure a place among the game's heavyweights. "I'm looking at star names. I'm determined to make Bedford a top club," Warren said.

They do not come much bigger than Martin Offiah, and the foot injury that has kept rugby league's prize asset prowling the union sidelines has frustrated Bedford's plans. Paul Turner, a shrewd acquisition as player-coach, reckons that he would have scored three tries in each of the games so far. "He trained with us the other night and was a different class," Turner said.

Bedford are still several men short of a team to live with the Newcastle and Richmond: Turner has a shopping list. "There have been some decent players here," he said, "but some have been around for too long and developed a losing attitude."

One exception is Steve McCurrie, another recruit from rugby league, whose previous appearances had been at hooker but who played at centre against Wakefield. With ten players out injured, Bedford's problems were such that Paul Hewitt, a flanker,

was also pressed into unfamiliar service on the wing.

That this makeshift side turned a 14-12 half-time deficit into a comfortable victory suggests that Turner is not too far from a team to share his hunger for success. Wakefield, after all, have already beaten Coventry away this season.

They have recruited more modestly, but are approaching their meeting with Newcastle on Saturday undaunted. "We always play our best against the best," Jim Kilfoyle, the coach, said.

Jackson gave Wakefield the lead with an early dropped goal and penalty goal, but Mansell completed a forwards' score for Bedford before Scully's fourth try of the season restored the Wakefield advantage. Then Rayer touched down and converted to close the gap once more.

The try of the game, eight minutes into the second half, settled the outcome. Massey and Thompson came close to scoring for Wakefield at one end before Rayer, McCurrie, Crossland and, most notably, Rayer swept Bedford to the other, where Hyde deserved his score. Lancaster's try was late consolation.

Neither Bedford nor Wakefield is going to win the Courage Clubs Championship second division and this game was mid-table fare. Warren accepts that success will not happen overnight. The real challenge comes next year.

SCORERS: Bedford: Three: Massey, Rayer, Hyde. Conversions: Rayer (2). Penalty goals: Rayer (2). Wakefield: Three: Scully, Lancaster. Penalty goals: Jackson (2). Dropped goal: Jackson.

BEDFORD: M Rayer, S Crossland, M Oliver, S McCurrie, P Hewitt, P Turner, B Hyde, L Mansell, M Pepper, J Probyn, J Percmore, R White, S Murray, P Kemble, R Winters.

WAKEFIELD: P Massey, S Cross, W Wray, P Maynard, R Thompson, M Jackson, D Scully, P Lancaster, T Gannet, R Szabo, G Wilson, S Carr, A Bailey, P Marley, P Stewart.

Referee: D Matthews (Liverpool).

Harlequins run riot to expose class distinction

Harlequins.....89
Orrell.....13

By PETER BILLS

NEVER mind the irrelevant talk in the Harlequins camp before this match about Orrell being their bogey team. That ignored one simple fact: Orrell lost 16 players in the summer while Harlequins signed getting on for double that number.

The result was a condemnation of the present Courage Clubs Championship in England. It made a powerful case for the European Super League because it is plain that these two clubs now inhabit different planets.

Harlequins amassed 14 tries without even looking particularly good for the first 20 minutes of the second half. Even so, this was their record home win and, to have swamped Orrell with a performance that included plenty of unforced errors, told us everything about the disparity in standards.

The first division has become two leagues within one. And, unless you conceal a streak of sadism within your soul, watching public executions of this nature is not going to be very attractive for long.

In the sponsors' boxes, the patrons spent the first half on their balconies but increasing-

ly they drifted back to the refreshments for most of the second half, bored at continually watching traffic stream down a one-way street.

Harlequins' 75-point hammering of Gloucester was followed by a 66-point rout of London Irish. Now this, the new stand arising on the far side of the ground is surely not going to be filled for such unsatisfying games as this.

Clearly Harlequins need the likes of Toulouse, Toulon, Dax, Munster, Pontypridd and Bridgend added to their fixture list, at the expense of the present first division also-rans. And they should meet them in a European Super League comprising home and away games. Visits to Toulouse or Munster are where you learn about your players, not in these gentle little romps.

Orrell did their best which, of course, was nowhere near good enough. Denuded of the finances which are now ruling the game, they have been forced to rely on a group of spirited youngsters. Peter Williams, their coaching director, said: "We have a good bunch of lads here and I hope they don't despair after a result like this. I told them they had to learn from it, not pack up. And if we can stick together, they will start to become very good players in a couple of years."

But Orrell will surely see the fruits of their labours in

developing talented young players torn away from them again by the cheque-book operators. It is the way of the new world and, until Orrell can find a solution to it, they will continue to struggle.

An indication of the stratospheric standards to which Harlequins have become accustomed was the condemnation of Will Carling's performance at stand-off by coach Andy Keast. Carling was far from hopeless, even in the eyes of those who regard his intended switch from centre as they would a late career move by Sir Alec Guinness into the music hall.

Keast said: "Will's kicking was not up to scratch. If he is taking responsibility for kicking, his percentage has to be a lot higher. If it isn't, we will find someone else."

Orrell, shocked by a 39-6 interval deficit and Quins' eight further tries in the second half, would have welcomed him, warts and all.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Three: Hume (3), Paul (2), Connolly (2). Bromley (2). Bedford: Catling, Davidson, Penally. Conversions: Catling (3). Penalty goals: Catling (2). Tries: Cook, Anglesey, Conners. Score: Penally goals: Sires (2).

HARLEQUINS: J Staples, D O'Leary, G Connolly, R Paul, S Bromley, W Carling, H Hume, J Leonard, K Wood, I Bedford, W Davidson, G Llewellyn, A Snow, L Cabannes, M Watson.

ORRELL: R Hitchmough, J Maylor, L Tugmeala, D Lyon, J Smith, M Sutt, S Cook, M Worsley, M Scott, P Turner, P Anglesey, P Rees, P O'Neil, N Gregory, A Bennet.

Referee: J Pearson (Durham).

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BY MEL WEBB

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Englishman-based players tried to fill side, who was sent off after 20 minutes. The inspiration of a British scrum half was marked man, but his man-ship was a key factor as he kicked ten goals from attempts. His first hat-trick tries took his tally to 32 points easily exceeding the previous individual points-scoring record of 26 by John Horne against New Zealand, in his SCORERS: Fly: Try: Marayana, Britain; Tries: Goulding 13, Hunt, Powell 12, Spruce 12, Cussey, 10; Senior, Sullivan, Gossard 11; Full: Sovatsava, Savile, Tarnett, Tait, Tuieni, Rotiua, Nasoro, Kulu, Yashina, Yasa, Sagutu, J. Doku, Natsigalo Substitutes: V. Duku, Vabutsu, Marayana, Walanda.

GREAT BRITAIN: S. Spruce, A. Hunt, R. Powell, A. Sullivan, J. Horne, Goulding, P. Broadbent, K. Cunningham, McDermott, D. Davis, P. Scullion, A. J. Substitutes: T. Smith, S. Marayana, S. Cassidy.

Referee: J. Stokes (New Zealand)

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RUGBY LEAGUE

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

I have already had my first grayling outing. The day graduated downwards, which seemed oddly appropriate. The first fish I took was a corker of close to 2lb. It rose to a tiny black midge. The last weighed less than two ounces. It took a gigantic daddy-long-legs intended for a trout. Quite

When the float was checked, the current swept the line, and bait beneath it, towards the surface. Seeing potential food that, up to that point, seemed unattractive, but was now making an escape, the fish's instincts took over. They simply grabbed the way any predator would, the way a

He was not only a brilliant fisherman, he was a great showman. He was so practised and confident of his skill with the induced take that he once volunteered to fish blindfold for the cameras.

He cast out and then, after a moment or two, as though by magic, his rod bent to a fish. He repeated the feat a number of times. The television audience marvelled. Here was a man with a sixth sense, using it.

Of course, it was nothing of the kind. Kite knew precisely what he was doing, which is not to say that it did not take *immense skill to execute*. He only fished where he knew dense shoal of grayling would be. He positioned himself carefully before the blindfold went on. He cast upstream of the fish with a weighted nymph and, when he judged the fly had drifted back to the shoal, at its depth, he lifted the little line. The nymph soared up and away from the fish and they responded as he expected. After a brief pause, timed for much practice when the cameras were not present, he

the year for a beginner to be introduced. Floating leaves may prove a nuisance but beyond that, shoaling grayling will offer the nearest thing to guarantee that angling provides. As every old hand knows, there is no more important ingredient to a beginner's first day than a fish.

There is something else the old hands know. It is that the above applies to shoaling grayling. Big grayling are a different matter.

Big grayling tend to be solitary creatures. Usually they will be in deep water which makes them difficult to locate. Because they are big

teach, te

Would

to learn some

ach, teach.
n't it be nice
thing for a change?

100

St Bede's widens its net to secure progress in tennis

By JOHN GOODBODY

PERCHED on the eastern slope of Beachy Head, St Bede's has one of the most spectacular settings for any school in the country. It also has an enviable record of success in prep school sport. This year, the boys' gymnastics team took the national title, the boys' hockey first XI won all their inter-school matches and the girls' seven-a-side rugby team finished third in the national championship.

However, it is in tennis that the co-educational school — 200 boys, 100 girls — has enjoyed its most consistent success over the years. Julie Salmon, the former British junior champion, and Oliver Foreman, a 16-year-old of huge potential, both went to St Bede's.

Three months ago the school won the prep schools national doubles title with an unusual partnership of Pavel Shishkanov, from Belarus, and Richard Harrison, from Sussex.

Two years ago, Shishkanov was studying at a language school in Eastbourne when Clay Iles, the St Bede's tennis coach, received a call from the school asking whether he



IN SCHOOLS

could help to train the boy. "He was highly ranked in his country as a junior and clearly had talent," Iles, a former national coach and Wimbledon player, said.

Before returning home after his course, Shishkanov and his mother were taken round St Bede's. Although they went back to Minsk, they were so attracted to the school that Shishkanov's parents phoned a week later and he began studying at St Bede's. Now aged 14, he has gone to the senior school at The Dicker. He has, Iles said, "a very good attitude. However he needs to work on his backhand and his service also needs to be stronger."

In the prep schools champ-

ionship, he reached the singles semi-final before losing to the defending champion, Wayne de Winton, of Clifton.

It is not only tennis at which he has excelled. He represented the school at cricket, although that did not impress many in Minsk. "No one knows about cricket there," he said. His English is now so fluent that the language is his favourite subject.

He is fully appreciative of Iles's contribution to his improvement. "He teaches technique so well and a lot of people know him for his coaching in this country," Shishkanov said.

Harrison, 12, is on a sports scholarship at St Bede's and is hoping to win the boys' singles in the national prep schools championship next year, although he respects the talent of another Sussex boy, Sam Tyson: "He will be tough."

Although there is an eight-court indoor centre, The Ballpark, in Eastbourne, where Shishkanov gets much of his coaching, St Bede's has two covered courts on site where practice can often begin at 7.15pm. "Having the indoor courts means that the pupils can play right through the winter," Iles said.

Peter Pyemont, the headmaster for 33 years, has seen how tennis has matched the soaring development of the school. Short tennis is proving so popular with the under-16s that they finished first in the Sussex section of the Midland Bank competition.

Both of his children were junior county players and his brother, Chris, took the prep schools boys' singles in 1960. However, Chris's son, James, a former St Bede's boy, is more renowned for cricket at Tonbridge. He has just been nominated as young player of the year by *The Cricketer* magazine.

The headmaster, looking back over his years at the school, said: "Once you attract excellence then it multiplies."



Harrison, left, and Shishkanov won the prep schools national doubles title for St Bede's earlier this year



Bobby Bonilla hits a home run for Baltimore Orioles against Cleveland

Villain turns star of show

By KEITH BLACKMORE

ROBERTO ALOMAR, the second baseman whose presence in the Baltimore Orioles line-up had threatened to disrupt the playing of the Major League play-offs, became the star of the show on Saturday, carrying his team into the American League Championship Series with two crucial hits.

AloMAR had been the subject of simmering controversy since last weekend, when he spat on and insulted an umpire. The American League subsequently suspended him for five games but he was able to defer that punishment until next season by appealing. The umpires threatened to strike in protest but were ordered to work by the courts.

All that was forgotten on Saturday night when AloMAR made the difference as Baltimore beat Cleveland Indians, the most successful team in baseball this season, 5-4 to take the best-of-five divisional series 3-1. They will play New York Yankees in a best-of-seven series beginning in New York tomorrow, for the American League Championship Series. The National League Championship Series, which begins on Wednesday, will be between Atlanta Braves and St Louis Cardinals, who also wrapped up their divisional series on Saturday.

The Orioles' victory was as dramatic as it was unexpected. The Indians, who won 99 games in the regular season, were considered favourites to reach the World Series for the second consecutive year, especially since Baltimore only qualified for the play-offs via a wild card for the best runner-up in the American League.

But, once Baltimore had won the opening two games, the Indians had to do or die. They won the third game on Friday and, when AloMAR came to the plate in the top of the ninth inning on Saturday,

the Indians led 4-3 and were one out away from tying the series with a home game to come. AloMAR singled, scoring Alexander and sending the game into extra innings.

Two tense and scoreless innings passed before AloMAR came to the plate again. He clubbed a pitch from Jose Mesa over the centrefield wall for the winning run.

"I've been going through a lot of tough times," AloMAR said. "I made a mistake and apologised, now I have to move on. I'm really happy to come here and help my team win."

The Orioles are in the League Championship series for the first time in 13 years. The Yankees have not been there for 15 years, a drought ended when they beat Texas Rangers 6-4 thanks to two home runs from Bernie Williams, one hit left-handed, the other right.

St Louis completed their victory over San Diego Padres by winning 7-5 to reach the National League Championship Series, where they will meet Atlanta Braves, who beat Los Angeles Dodgers 5-2 to sweep their series 3-0.

May's memory to inspire a new generation

David Miller reports on an appeal to upgrade sports facilities in London

IN a single winter during his time as captain of England and Surrey, Peter May attended more than 70 dinners as an invited speaker. Though a genial and benign man, he was far from being a boisterous socialite. It was not a task that he sought or needed.

He went, for the same reason that he agreed later to become Test selector and subsequently chairman of selectors, because he believed in putting something back into cricket. He always considered that he, rather than the game, was the beneficiary, through the enjoyment he had from his feats at the wicket. This was a man, even in his prime, shy of the limelight.

Nothing could be more appropriate, therefore, as a lasting memorial to this classic batsman — who scored 13 centuries in 66 Tests at an average of nearly 47, hit 146 as a schoolboy against the Combined Services and a century for England as an undergraduate, and totalled 27,592 runs with an average of 51 — than the appeal in his name by the London Playing Fields Society (LPFS).

The appeal is launched this evening at the Oval, with the hope of raising £7.5 million: two-thirds of which is to be applied for from the National Lottery Fund, for the upgrading of four existing LPFS sites: Wadham Lodge in Walthamstow; Fairlop Oak in Hainault; Morden Park and Prince George's at Raynes Park. Already £1.2 million is promised from the private sector in the most ambitious project in the 107-year history of the Society.

More than £3 million is projected for Wadham Lodge, to be renamed The Peter May Sports Centre, incorporating four cricket squares, two artificial wickets, six football and two hockey grass pitches, and an artificial football/hockey pitch. It is hoped to double the present yearly figure of a quarter of a million individual appearances at all LPFS facilities.

Chairman of the appeal is Lord Prior, the former Cabinet minister, an able cricketer and footballer, and a colleague of May's at school and university. "Our aim is to widen sports opportunities in disadvantaged areas," Lord Prior said, "to help youngsters

get off the streets and to be able to use facilities similar to those that Peter enjoyed at Charterhouse and Cambridge." May was also an accomplished football and hockey player and possibly the greatest of all Eton lives players, together with his brother John, a minor counties cricketer. Both brothers died prematurely. Peter in 1994.

The LPFS sites are intended for all, from school-age upwards, the masses and the elite. It is planned that the London Cricket College, of which David Gower is president, will function at Wadham Lodge, developing and coaching players to the highest level.

Alex Welsh, a former PE teacher with the Inner London Education Authority, was appointed as co-ordinator in all sports at Wadham Lodge in 1989. He is still running evening goalkeeping courses at Arsenal's Centre of Excellence at Highbury.

Welsh said: "My job is making maximum use of the facilities for the benefit of the local population. We are building a bridge between the schools in the middle and a club base at weekends, somewhere for kids to go and realise their potential, and then to have a continuation after their school days. I am trying to create a cricket-in-the-community environment. Sometimes we have 15 school cricket games in a week."

As Welsh says, the LPFS charity is low key, without the heart-strings pull of health charities, yet vital to the nation's future. "Without our involvement, several of our centres would probably now be supermarkets," he said.

Welsh follows May's sense of service to sport. The power of May's hitting, similar to that of Vivian Richards, reminded old stagers of the ferocious Douglas Jardine, yet, when he retired, May reflected: "I never saw the game as a personal thing, which is why I enjoyed it so much." Generous response to the memory of his altruism can assist this generation and those to come.

□ Peter May Memorial Appeal, 1-2 Hanover Street, London W1R 9WB.

SPORTS LETTERS

Welsh must stir themselves

From Mr Nicolas Stevenson

Sir, I write dejectedly regarding the limited interest the Welsh senior rugby union clubs are taking in the Anglo-Welsh competition (report, October 2). I have always believed Wales's league system to be strong, yet with Bath crushing Swansea at the Recreation Ground and Cardiff pulling the plug on the Harlequins fixture in September, I began to have doubts.

When I heard that Neath were to visit Wasps at Repton Avenue, I purchased four tickets at £12 each. It was with great regret that a sombre official called me the day before the fixture to inform me that Neath were not able to raise a side, the game was cancelled and I would be given a full refund.

As an amateur cricketer, I accept that occasionally ourselves or our opponents are unable to fulfil a fixture due to lack of availability. But a professional rugby club doing this? This is an extraordinary state of affairs. Are the Welsh sides not prepared to take this competition seriously? Or do they not want to risk the potential humiliation of being thrashed. England always

turned up for their biennial whipping by the Welsh national side in Cardiff in the 1970s.

I am not interested in listening to Neath's feeble excuses about a lack of props and the proliferation of major fixtures. The clubs are now professional, we (the supporters and sponsors) now pay considerable amounts to see these games and expect value for money — players on the pitch, though I don't need the likes of Gary Glitter records or dancing girls. If a fixture is to be played, it is fulfilled or the club backing out concedes the league points to its opponents.

From what I have read, Wasps had spent a considerable amount of money publicising the event, printing tickets, postage and so forth, and I sincerely hope that Neath are heavily punished for their amateurish behaviour. For Neath's sake they had better make sure that the premiums for their cancellation and abandonment insurance policies are fully paid up.

Yours faithfully,
NICOLAS STEVENSON,
16 Evelyn Gardens,
Richmond,
Surrey.

No going back for Klinsmann

From Mr Christopher Mayer

Sir, Rob Hughes's open letter to Jürgen Klinsmann (October 1) is a worthy attempt to identify the problems at Bayern Munich where each day off the top of the Bundesliga is always perceived to be one of crisis.

Perhaps the following points should be considered: Klinsmann scored a huge number of goals in an English league accepted everywhere apart from the mother of football as second rate; only once, in 1988 at VfB Stuttgart, where he scored 19 goals in a season, has he topped the Bundesliga charts. Incidentally, Klinsmann's tally was one off Tony Yeboah's 20 for Eintracht Frankfurt in 1993.

Klinsmann has spent much time abroad, at Internazionale of Milan with Lohar Matthäus and Giovanni Trapattoni, and at Monaco where his relations with Arsène Wenger were said to be less than constructive, hence his drought of goals. I doubt he would sign for Arsenal.

Hughes quotes Franz

Beckenbauer from *Bild*, but his open letter does not give the benefit of direct quotes from other so-called warring factions. Beckenbauer apparently also demanded the team "works like crazy and gives its all for 90 minutes." He should know about dissent in the ranks. As captain of the 1974 World Cup winning team, he was said to be consistently at loggerheads with the coach and was rebuffed for spitting during the loss to East Germany.

Klinsmann says he will retire after the next World Cup. Matthäus publicly insists he will retire after captaining Germany in the tournament. Both would also like to bow out with a European Cup winner's medal. I suggest Klinsmann, who knows one should never go back, stands a chance of achieving that goal in Munich rather than in London, Manchester or Liverpool.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MAYER,
99 Chestnut Grove,
New Malden, Surrey.

Soccer pioneers

From Mr M. Kerrich

Sir, When I was at Haileybury in the late Forties we used to play football regularly on Sundays. There were no inter-school matches but unofficial house matches took place, although not all houses took part.

Alas, in 1949 football was banned. Who by? Not the school authorities but the rugby secretary (another boy). The rugby men won the day, at least, it seems from your report (September 25), until 1967.

Yours faithfully,
M. W. DO. KERRICH,
11 Malloy Court,
Belgrave Road,
Altrincham, Cheshire.

From Mr Nick Malicka
Sir, It was most gratifying to find a report and a photograph of Haileybury's soccer exploits. Some of the pioneers of the game from 1967 are still playing for the Old Haileyburian Veterans team. In 1967 the Master, Bill Stewart, viewed these pioneers as "rebels" and potential subversives to the game of rugby football. Today, they are honest supporters of the Establishment: accountants, estate agents, engineers, insurance brokers and educators.

Yours faithfully,
NICK MALICKA (Captain,
Old Haileyburian Veterans),
Headmaster,
Raphael Independent School,
Park Lane,
Hornchurch, Essex.

New tradesmen

From Mr David I.C. Caldwell

Sir, Apropos Mel Webb's TV Action Replay (September 30) on Gary Lineker's shortcomings as a presenter, I would like to offer some words in defence of Sky TV's Andrew Castle, and, to a lesser extent, Lineker himself.

Castle, whom Webb described as "groping his way haplessly through the maze of PGA European Tour golf . . .", has, in my time as a Sky subscriber, improved at a considerably faster rate than Lineker, and continues to do so.

I have it on good authority that Castle, in common with many former sportsmen and women, is respected for his empathy with players and for the fact that he, unlike many presenters and commentators who often betray their tabloid press backgrounds, resists the temptation to sensationalise events and demand an inquisition in the event of failure. "So, X, where do you think it all went wrong?" etc.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

True champions

From Mr E. C. Edge

Sir, I have constructed two tables from match results from the 1996 Britannic Assurance county cricket championship. The first gives runs per wicket for and against the top six sides, who were in the running up to the end, and also the difference between these figures.

The second table summarises their performance in matches against each other and also gives details of how

many such matches each team played at home and away. These figures, I think, show: 1. There is a serious lack of penetrative bowling throughout English cricket, as has already become apparent from international results. 2. The superiority of Leicestershire was greater than

indicated either by the final table or by the apparent closeness of the race through the season. This is particularly the case in the bowling department.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD C. EDGE,
64 Laverton Road,
Lytham St Annes, Lancashire.

Team	For	Against	Runs	Wickets	Difference
Leicestershire	8645-216	40 02	8135-316	25 47	14355
Derbyshire	9208-272	38 05	8202-283	22 57	408
Surrey	9669-239	40 54	9303-283	32 87	767
Gloucestershire	6384-355	33 37	6067-277	25 09	418
Essex	8527-256	37 21	8548-278	34 21	300
Yorkshire	8282-264	35 16	9015-278	32 43	273

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Which chance is more likely: (i) a 3-3 break or, failing that, at least one of one of two particular cards to be in a particular hand; (ii) a suit to break no worse than 4-2? That was the declarer's problem, as described in the Bulletin on this hand from the European Youth Championships.

Dealer North	Love all	IMPs
♠ K J 3 ♥ 10 9 ♦ A K Q 5 4 ♣ J 8 4 ♠ 10 8 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ J 9 7 6 3 ♣ A 8 2	♠ Q 6 5 ♥ K 6 5 4 2 ♦ 10 ♣ K 10 9 3	♠ A 9 7 4 2 ♥ A J 8 ♦ 8 2 ♣ Q 7 5

Contract: Four Spades by South
Lead: Ten of spades

In the match between Denmark and Lithuania, South played Four Spades. The bidding wasn't given in the report I read, but it was presumably something like: One Diamond — One Spade — Two Spades — One Spade.

After West's lead of the ten of spades (remind me to do another diatribe against trump leads) the declarer's trump loser disappeared. How should he try for his tenth trick?

One line is to draw trumps, cross to a diamond to take a heart finesse, and then test diamonds. If they are not 3-3, take another heart finesse. The 3-3 break is 36 per cent, and so the non-3-3 break is 64 per cent. Of that 64 per cent you make 76 per cent of the time (the chance of at least one heart honour

being with East is 76 per cent). Overall, about 85 per cent.

The other line is to draw trumps and duck a diamond. Diamonds no worse than 4-2 is about 84 per cent. So you might think the Lithuanian declarer would take the first line. Unfortunately, he played too well. He recognised that after ducking the diamond he could discard two hearts on diamonds. If the diamonds were 5-1 he could still succeed if East had a favourable club holding — A K, or ace or king singleton or doubleton. Alas, it all failed, and the inferior line would have succeeded. Pity the hideous trump lead didn't get what it deserved.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

OCULOGYRIC
a. An anticlockwise creeper
b. A logical toy
c. Eye-rolling

FRIPPET
a. A frivolous female
b. A Lancashire pancake
c. To quiz

Answers on page 49

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Lost medals

The England team tied for third place in the Erevan Chess Olympiad. England finished level on points with the United States but had to surrender the bronze medals on tie-break. It might have been quite different if the game today, from the United States (de Firmian) — Armenia (Azmaiparashvili) match, played in the last round, had ended in a draw instead of a win for the United States. After White's 45th move Black still had substantial drawing prospects. Had Black been able to carry out further simplification after move 45, he could well have held on for the half-point which would have given England bronze. Instead, Black's 45th and 46th moves were both colossal blunders.

White: N de Firmian
Black: Z Azmaiparashvili
Erevan Olympiad, Armenia September 1996

Scandinavian Defence	Diagram of final position
1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 d4 Nd6 4 Nf3 g6 5 c4 Nb5 6 Nc3 Bg7 7 d5 Nc7 8 Bc4 0-0 9 0-0 c6 10 Re1 Nf6 11 N3 b6 12 Bc3 a5 13 a3 Na6 14 Qe2 Nc7	

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Perlasco — Grassi, Como 1977. In this game White has lost almost all his pawns, but has a big lead in development. This is typical of the old classical style and now, White, fittingly, found a classical finish. What did he play?

Solution on page 49


[illegible]

	HOME					AWAY					G	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F		
1 Liverpool	8	3	1	0	9	2	3	1	0	9	4	20
2 Newcastle	8	3	0	1	9	6	3	0	1	5	4	18
3 Arsenal	8	3	1	0	11	4	2	1	6	4	17	
4 Man Utd	8	2	2	0	10	5	2	2	0	8	1	16
5 Wimbledon	8	3	0	1	8	4	2	0	2	4	3	15
6 Chelsea	8	2	2	0	5	2	1	2	1	6	8	13
7 Sheffield Wed	8	2	1	1	4	4	2	0	5	2	7	13
8 Villa	8	2	2	0	5	2	1	1	2	6	7	12
9 Middlesbrough	8	2	1	1	11	6	1	1	2	3	7	11
10 Leicester	8	2	0	2	3	6	1	2	1	3	3	11
11 Derby	8	1	2	1	5	6	1	2	1	3	4	10
12 Sunderland	8	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	4	4	9	
13 Everton	8	2	0	2	5	3	0	3	1	3	7	9
14 Tottenham	8	0	2	2	3	5	2	0	2	3	3	8
15 West Ham	8	1	1	2	4	6	1	1	2	3	6	8
16 Nottm Forest	8	0	2	2	2	7	1	2	1	7	7	7
17 Leeds	8	1	0	3	1	7	1	1	2	5	4	7
18 Southampton	8	1	2	1	6	3	0	4	4	4	5	5
19 Coventry	8	1	1	2	2	5	0	1	3	1	8	5
20 Blackburn	8	0	1	3	2	5	0	2	2	3	5	3



Nationwide





EUROPE

**European Under-21
championship**

Qualifying group four

**LATVIA U21 (0) 0 SCOTLAND U21 (0)
500**

FRENCH LEAGUE: Paris Saint-Germain
Le Havre 0; Montpellier 3 Bastia 1; Caen
Bordeaux 0; Cannes 1 Auxerre
Guingamp 1 Lyon 0, Lens 2 Metz
Monaco 3 Rennes 1, Nancy 2 Lille
Nantes 7 Nice 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Monaco	11	5	4	2	18	10	12
Bastia	11	5	1	5	17	10	12
Auxerre	11	4	6	1	11	5	5
Bordeaux	11	4	5	2	11	11	5
Metz	11	4	5	2	10	14	10
Lyon	11	4	5	2	14	10	14
Marseille	10	4	4	3	12	9	9
Guingamp	11	3	3	5	10	9	9
Cannes	11	4	4	3	9	9	9
Lille	11	4	3	4	12	15	15
Rennes	11	4	3	4	15	15	14
Lens	11	4	3	4	12	16	16
Strasbourg	10	4	3	4	10	14	14
Montpellier	11	2	5	4	10	14	14
Le Havre	11	2	3	6	8	13	13
Nantes	11	2	5	4	17	17	17
Nice	11	2	2	7	9	21	21

FIRST DIVISION												
	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
1 Bolton	10	4	1	0	13	3	3	1	1	11	10	23
2 Norwich	10	2	3	11	7	3	3	1	0	9	4	21
3 Barnley	11	4	1	1	12	8	2	2	2	4	5	18
4 Tranmere	11	4	1	1	12	8	3	1	3	11	7	17
5 Sc Palace	10	3	2	0	12	3	1	3	1	11	7	16
6 Walsingham	11	3	2	1	10	9	1	1	1	10	6	14
7 Stoke	9	3	1	0	8	5	1	2	2	8	10	15
8 Ipswich	10	2	2	10	8	8	1	3	1	8	5	14
9 Oxford Utd	9	2	0	1	10	9	1	1	0	8	3	14
10 Shett Utd	8	2	1	1	10	7	2	0	2	6	5	13
11 Huddersld	8	2	1	1	1	7	4	1	0	2	6	13
12 West Brom	9	1	1	2	6	8	2	3	0	7	4	13
13 QPR	9	1	0	1	10	9	1	1	1	8	3	14
14 Man City	9	0	0	1	5	3	1	0	4	4	8	12
15 Port Vale	11	1	3	1	5	5	1	3	2	4	6	12
16 Gillingham	11	2	0	1	11	11	1	1	1	10	5	11
17 Swindon	10	2	1	2	1	5	1	3	2	6	8	11
18 Portltham	11	1	2	2	5	5	2	2	0	4	11	11
20 Reading	10	2	1	1	11	11	1	1	1	10	5	11
20 Reading	10	2	1	1	6	8	1	0	5	5	13	10
21 Southend	11	2	1	2	10	8	0	2	4	4	14	10
22 Charlton	8	2	0	0	5	1	0	0	2	4	7	10
23 Birmingham	9	2	1	1	10	8	1	1	1	10	6	9
24 Oldham	11	1	2	3	8	9	0	1	4	3	8	6
SECOND DIVISION												
	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A


[illegible]

2 Brentford	11	4	2	0	16	10	1	0	9	2	27
2 Watford	11	2	1	2	0	2	5	4	5	0	22
3 Bury	11	2	1	2	0	2	5	4	5	0	22
4 Chesterfield	11	2	1	2	0	2	5	4	5	0	22
5 Crewe	11	5	0	1	0	12	5	2	1	1	8
6 Millwall	11	3	1	1	1	9	6	4	2	1	10
7 Bristol R.	11	4	0	1	1	9	6	4	2	1	10
8 Charlton	11	3	1	1	1	9	6	4	2	1	10
9 Wrexham	9	2	2	0	0	7	5	5	1	2	10
10 Shrewsbury	10	2	2	2	0	14	10	1	1	1	7
11 Luton	10	2	2	2	0	14	10	1	1	1	7
12 Peterborough	10	1	3	0	0	13	10	5	2	1	8
13 Bristol City	10	1	3	0	0	13	10	5	2	1	8
14 Stockport	10	1	3	0	0	13	10	5	2	1	8
15 Gillingham	10	4	1	1	1	5	5	2	0	1	4
16 Plymouth	11	2	3	1	1	5	4	4	1	1	3
17 Blackpool	11	1	2	1	1	3	3	3	0	1	2
18 Notts County	11	1	2	1	1	3	3	3	0	1	2
19 York	11	1	1	2	3	6	8	10	1	2	7
20 Wycombe	11	2	1	1	3	6	6	6	1	2	7
21 Exeter	11	2	0	0	13	3	3	3	1	2	7
22 Bournemouth	10	0	0	5	2	7	7	7	3	1	2
23 Notts Co.	10	1	1	3	5	5	7	7	1	2	2
24 Rotherham	10	1	1	1	3	5	7	7	0	1	5

TABLE DIVISION													
	P	HOME					AWAY					P	
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1 Carlisle	11	4	2	0	10	2	3	1	0	1	6	4	24
2 Fulham	11	3	0	2	7	5	5	0	1	1	8	4	24
3 Grimsby	11	5	0	0	13	3	2	2	1	1	9	4	24
4 Cambridge Utd	11	5	0	1	11	6	2	2	1	1	7	6	23

[illegible]

5 Hull	11	2	3	0	6	8	4	2	2	0	12	18
8 Scarborough	10	2	3	0	7	4	4	2	1	0	10	17
7 Chester	10	4	1	0	10	7	4	4	1	3	4	8
8 Torquay	11	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	7	6
8 L. Orient	11	3	2	1	2	7	6	2	3	5	5	15
10 Lincoln	11	2	1	4	2	6	3	2	0	3	7	15
11 Hartlepool	11	2	2	2	1	8	9	5	2	4	7	6
12 Barnet	11	3	3	1	1	8	5	5	2	4	2	3
13 Cardiff	9	2	1	2	7	6	4	2	1	3	5	8
14 Scunthorpe	11	2	0	3	5	7	5	2	2	1	8	8
15 Darlington	11	3	2	2	1	10	6	6	1	4	6	12
15 Doncaster	11	3	2	1	7	6	4	1	3	5	9	13
17 Mansfield	11	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	1	3	6	11
18 Swansea	11	2	2	2	2	9	6	1	1	0	3	11
19 Haverford	11	3	1	2	2	8	5	6	2	4	5	11
20 Exeter	11	2	1	3	2	8	5	6	2	0	4	11
21 Northampton	11	3	1	3	2	8	5	6	3	2	4	11
22 Colchester	11	3	1	3	1	6	6	0	4	4	5	10
23 Rochdale	11	2	2	1	7	9	6	0	4	2	6	10
24 Brighton	11	2	2	1	9	9	0	0	6	2	1	12



BELL'S

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION												
	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F.A	P	W	D	L	F.A	Gr	
1 Rangers	7	4	0	0	7	0	2	0	0	10	3	21 +
2 Celtic	7	3	0	0	4	2	3	1	1	7	6	16 +

[illegible]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	A	W	A	F	A	P	G	P
3 Aberdeen	7	2	1	1	1	9	4	1	1	1	6	4	10	11	1
4 Motherwell	7	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	3	10	11	1
5 Hearts	7	2	1	1	0	5	3	1	1	0	3	4	10	11	1
6 Hibernian	7	2	1	1	2	3	5	5	2	0	1	3	5	5	10
7 Dunfermline	7	2	1	1	1	2	3	4	0	0	0	3	3	5	10
8 Dundee United	7	1	1	1	2	3	3	4	0	0	0	3	3	5	10
9 Falkirk	7	0	1	2	2	4	9	0	1	0	0	2	4	9	3
10 Raith Rovers	7	1	1	2	2	4	9	0	0	0	2	4	9	3	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	A	W	A	F	A	P	G	P
1 Dundee	8	3	0	1	1	6	3	2	2	0	0	1	3	17	1
2 Morton	8	3	1	1	1	6	3	3	2	0	1	6	4	1	16
3 St Johnstone	8	3	1	2	1	1	5	2	2	1	1	6	3	4	11
4 Falkirk	7	1	2	1	1	3	6	2	2	1	1	6	3	4	11
5 Aberdeen	7	0	0	2	1	5	2	2	2	0	0	4	2	10	11
6 Clydebank	8	3	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	1	1	4	2	9	9
7 Partick	7	0	0	3	0	3	5	2	2	0	0	3	2	8	7
8 St Mirren	8	0	0	3	0	0	3	5	2	1	3	4	3	8	7
9 Stirling	7	1	1	2	2	7	12	0	0	2	1	3	4	7	6
10 East Fife	7	1	1	2	3	5	5	0	2	1	1	3	4	7	6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	A	W	A	F	A	P	G	P
1 Livingston	8	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	6	3	3	20	1
2 Ayr	8	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	8	3	4	17	2
3 Hamilton	8	2	1	0	1	8	4	4	3	1	1	7	2	17	2
4 Queen Of S	8	2	1	0	1	8	4	4	3	1	1	7	2	17	2
5 Clyde	8	2	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	4	4	11	11

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	HOME					AWAY					Goals	
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F		
St Mirrens	8	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	3	11
Strenshurst	8	0	1	1	1	2	4	0	0	2	2	9
Brechin	8	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	4	10
Dumbarton	8	0	3	2	5	0	1	0	2	3	5	6
Berwick	8	1	1	1	5	0	0	0	5	6	17	4

	HOME					AWAY					Goals	
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F		
Monroese	8	2	1	1	7	4	0	1	7	3	16	
Abdon	8	2	2	1	6	3	2	1	0	5	2	15
Cowdenhill	8	1	1	1	2	9	3	1	1	10	6	14
Cailey This	8	1	3	1	1	8	5	5	1	5	4	14
Alloa	8	1	2	1	1	8	4	2	1	2	4	12
St. Grouns's Pk.	8	1	2	2	7	11	1	2	0	5	4	12
St. Ross Co.	8	0	0	3	3	7	3	0	2	6	5	9
Arbroath	8	1	1	2	4	5	0	3	1	2	4	7
Forfar	8	1	1	2	6	9	1	0	2	3	8	7
East Stirling	8	1	0	3	3	6	0	0	2	6	9	5

MILLENNIUM CRISIS

FOCUS

Mistake of the millennium

Matthew May introduces a five-page report on the virtual timebomb that is ticking inside computers all over the world

At the stroke of midnight on December 31, 1999, there is a very real chance that many of the world's computers will assume that the year just starting is 1900. That may seem little more than a good joke at the expense of an industry that did not foresee that the computers and software it was producing in the 1960s and 1970s could still be in use at the end of the century. Back then, when the power of even the cheapest of today's personal computers was unthinkable, there was a desperate need to be as terse as possible when giving computers their instructions. What better than to adopt the common shorthand of expressing the year as two characters rather than four? So, 1973 became 73 and the seeds of what some are calling Apocalypse 2000 were planted. Computers use dates all the time — to calculate your age, for example. Left untreated, any computers and software could be crippling to business. A typical mid-sized company has 8,000 legacy (uncorrected) programs supporting its business applications, according to the consultants Coopers & Lybrand. That's 12 million lines of code. One out of every 30 lines has a date reference. One computer expert from a

large German software company said: "I don't want to be in traffic. I don't want to be in an elevator in a tall building. I don't want to be anywhere computer-dependent on January 1, 2000."

The world will not really be filled with the sound of crashing vehicles, lifts or even aircraft come the millennium. But many experts are concerned that in less life-threatening pursuits it will not be all right on the night. Even among those refusing to panic, who tend to describe the millennium bug merely as "achieving Year 2000 compliance", there are worries.

Any companies not already devising plans on how to rework their computer systems to deal with the problem will, they argue, soon find that they have run out of time. And those who have re-programmed their own systems perfectly may still have problems if the other companies they deal with electronically have not been so thorough.

The elaborate plans being formulated to combat the problem highlight its seriousness and scale. BT has formed the Millennium Survival Group along with other large British companies. BT's own measures, including an "emergency timetable" that will finish a planning phase by



March 1997, implement all the changes needed by the start of 1999 and give it a year to test the results. Meanwhile, DISC, the British Standards Institution department responsible for standardisation in IT, is

writing a code of practice which will define the phrase "millennium compliance".

Schemes such as BT's are unusual, according to a survey of 535 UK companies published in May by the Depart-

ment of Trade and Industry, the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency, the Computing Services & Software Association and PA Consulting.

The survey found that while six out of ten companies expected their computer systems to be affected by the millennium bug before 2000, only 8 per cent had conducted a full audit to assess the extent to which their business-critical systems need correction. Only 15 per cent of senior managers seemed to be fully aware of it.

In America, one worried government official described it as "not a programming problem, but a management problem".

There is little comfort to be found at a European level, either. Not one of the 120 European information technology directors at a recent conference on the topic in Munich had a live project to tackle the issue.

The European Commission is seen as equally passive. Martin Bangemann, the telecommunications and IT commissioner, acknowledged the problem only in June. Evan Grant, IBM's European Year 2000 manager, says: "If you haven't started solving the problem by 1997, you will run up against a brick wall."

Europe is facing a double-whammy. Just as measures to sort out the millennium bug should be getting into full swing, the first stages of Economic and Monetary Union are scheduled to start.

If just two countries, then businesses throughout the world, opt to start using a single European currency and particularly within the EU, will have to adjust their computers to accept the new currency.

How far the millennium crisis will turn into a mad scramble as it draws nearer — with companies fighting to get hold of the relatively small pool of experienced staff who can help to cure the problem — depends on who to whom you talk. Muddying the waters is the amount of cynicism over the fact that a lot of companies, including many seen as responsible for the problem in the first place, stand to make money out of solving it.

But even if this is partially true, it does nothing to make the millennium crisis any less serious. Skilled practitioners to sort out the mess are already in short supply and companies should book now.

If there is going to be an argument over who is liable to pay, it is one that will have to be sorted out later.

The author is managing editor of Information Strategy magazine, published by the Economist Group.

Two missing digits add up to big trouble

The mathematics, John Stevenson says, are easy; the solution is not

The basic mathematics of the millennium crisis are easy to understand. But to grasp the breadth of the problem requires a quick tour of the basic mechanics of a computer program.

There are many programming languages but all perform the same function. In essence, they are highly structured versions of the English language — complete with their own nouns, verbs and syntax.

The programmer uses a language to write a set of instructions for the computer. These instructions (known as the source code) are translated (or compiled) into binary data — electronic impulses for the computer.

Within a computer program, logical tests and arithmetic calculations are performed on dates all the time. These are no different to the tests and checks we all perform in our daily lives. For example, you probably use the date as an index when sorting lists of cash withdrawal

THE NUMBERS

vention we all use on cheques and letters. Or perhaps his programming language only ever recognised the last two digits of the year. Probably the most influential computer programming language for large scale commercial systems such as payroll, accounts and manufacturing has been Cobol (Common Business Operating Language). With the advent of a new century, in Cobol's original standard form, 97 + 3 could yield 00 or 10 or 100 or "ERROR" — or any one of a number of unpredictable outcomes.

If a company has had applications and systems written specially for it, it might be running business systems (payroll, invoicing, manufacturing, etc.) derived from say a million lines of programming code with ten words to a line. Many of these lines will contain two-digit year numbers. The problem is finding them all, fixing them all and testing them all. Has the company still got the source code. Is so, can it be read?

As a rough analogy: The Times regularly contains the equivalent of around 10,000 lines of text with six words to a line. So imagine searching 100 copies of The Times for every instance of the past tense of every verb — and replacing it with the current tense. Then testing and checking all the prose to ensure that none of it has lost its readability.

Not all business systems were written in the same programming languages throughout. Many were a hybrid of ancient and modern. So now imagine performing the same test on The Times — but in a mix of modern English, Chaucerian, Sanskrit and Norse. And being certain that you've made no mistakes, or someone might sue.

It is in the very nature of the problem that no one knows how each individual system will react. What is certain is that those organisations that do not try to assess their level of exposure well in advance could end up in a potentially explosive situation.

The problem is finding all the errors, fixing them, then testing them

get today's date add 4 years print it

All of which works fine, so long as the year is expressed using the full four digits. For example, 1997 + 3 yields 2000: a sensible, logical answer. However, many computer programs express year numbers using two digits. This could be because the programmer had a shortage of storage (disk) space on the computer. Or he was following the standard day/month/year con-



Holloway: space was lacking

Don't shoot me, I'm the programmer

"LOOK at the historical context," urges Bob Holloway. A manager with ICL, Bob started his computing career over 25 years ago at Burroughs Machines, programming the sort of systems that are now the cause of so much concern. John Stevenson writes.

The first commercial system Bob worked on supported 20-30 users. It had, by modern standards, a laughably small amount of storage capacity. (About 80 megabytes of disk as opposed to 1200+ megabytes in a modern PC). And it cost three quarters of a million pounds. "Disk space was at a premium. If you could save space by expressing the year in two digits, you did."

There was also the cultural question. Most of the computing projects of the era automated existing paper processes. As such they inherited the same conventions as their paper counterparts. Like virtually every memo or form that has been written before or since — they used a two digit date. "If I ask myself honestly — did we think about the implications of the year 2000? No. We never gave it a thought. No-one expected the systems we were programming to last more than 5-10 years. Decadalisation was the big topic of the era. It was enormous and it was affecting every type of system. In comparison, the year 2000 was worlds away."

LET'S MAKE A DATE...

11.59pm, 31st DECEMBER 1999

...HAVE YOU EVER BEEN STOOD UP BEFORE?

The advent of the new millennium is obviously cause for much anticipation, but with little thought, planning and help from the experts, you could be sorry about your date with the 21st Century. It's which party is to be blamed for that? It's leaving that your corporate systems are safe and ready to go. If that weren't just another day.

Cognos can help you through the millennium, ensuring you relax and enjoy the festivities.

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Who can sue whom

Simon Halberstam spells out the legal options for software users

Many businesses are starting only now to focus on whether they have a 2000 problem and how to solve it. As they begin to realise the potential costs of achieving compliance, they may well try to recoup some or all of these costs from those who may have caused or contributed to their problem.

It is very important to bear in mind that resorting to legal action should be a last resort. Litigation is inherently expensive and its outcome uncertain. A software user may render a supplier or facilities manager contractually liable for ensuring that its system is 2000-compliant, only to find that the other party is bankrupt when the system collapses.

Computer users, therefore, should sort out the problem in advance. But if they do not, whom can they sue?

The most obvious target would be the software house from which they acquired the software, typically by way of a licence. The chances of suing the software house successfully are likely to be affected by various factors:

If the software licence contains an express warranty that the software will be 2000-compliant or will run without interruption at any time, this will work in the user's favour. Anyone entering such a software licence between now and 2000 should request such a warranty in appropriately worded terms. We have drafted a model 2000 compliance warranty and now insist on its insertion in any software licence negotiation when we are representing the user.

If the software licence is of a fixed duration, did it expire before or after 2000? In the former case, the licensee will have little ground for com-

plaint if the software was not 2000-compliant. In the latter case, the software house may find it difficult to argue that 2000 compliance was not part of the deal.

If the licence is of unspecified duration, the longer the period between the date of acquisition of the package and the year 2000, the more likely the software house will be able to defend itself successfully. This generalisation will probably be tempered in certain industries, where 2000 should have been present in the thoughts of a software house many years ago. For example, in the mortgage industry, a house commissioned to write software for a mortgage provider after 1975 should have had the millennium change in mind.

If a user has jumped on the outsourcing bandwagon and appointed a facilities manager to run its data-processing and computer operations, is the facilities manager responsible for ensuring that the user's business is not interrupted by the century change? Again, this will be affected by various factors, including:

• **Operational continuity guarantee:** Did the facilities manager give the user an absolute guarantee of continuity

of operations at all times?

• **Consultancy obligation:** Did the FM agreement oblige the facilities manager to advise the user on any necessary upgrades to its system?

• **Service levels:** Did the facilities manager guarantee the production of various operational results, such as payroll processing, by the same time each week?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, the facilities manager may be liable if the system fails.

When they computerise their operations, some users seek external advice on what software and hardware systems they should acquire. If the appointed consultant did not recommend that the system should be 2000-compliant, it may be liable for negligent advice. These third party consultants may range from one-man bands that are probably not worth suing, all the way to the consulting arms of some of the leading management consultancy and accountancy firms.

Companies should remember that even if liability can be established in principle, they must be within the statutory time limits for making a claim. In contract you must bring a claim within six years, calcu-

lated from the date of the alleged breach of contract. If you bring a claim in tort for negligence, the six years remain, but time runs only from the date of the damage (although a contractual claim for software obtained more than six years ago may be a different matter).

Also to be borne in mind are the different types of loss that might be suffered:

• **Direct loss:** If a software program does not operate accurately after the 2000 change, the cost of having it replaced would be a direct loss.

• **Indirect loss:** For example, the cost of replacing a hard disk worn out by software going into a loop.

• **Consequential loss:** Sometimes called economic loss, this might be the loss of profits sustained by a business because software has malfunctioned.

Usually, there is not a problem in bringing a claim for such losses in contract, but there may be if you claim in negligence. As a general principle, the courts have been very reluctant to allow claims for "pure economic loss" in tort where there is no physical damage to property or injury to people. This could be a serious impediment if you are relying only on a claim in negligence.

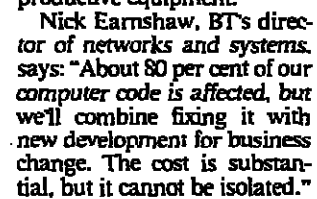
• **The author is the head of the 2000 Law Department at Halberstam Ellis, solicitors of Clifford's Inn.**

• **The 2000 Compliance Database, endorsed by the Government's Taskforce 2000, will provide information on which software products are 2000 compliant. It is due to appear on the web within a few weeks at:**

<http://www.weblaw.co.uk>

Financial services in the firing line

Nick Jones, a director at Gartner, the American-based IT research company, expects the \$1 cost of re-writing a line of computer code to double or at most treble by 2000. But he says that "the world doesn't have enough systems-integrating capacity to meet the crisis". Gartner puts the global cost at \$600 billion, based on \$1.10 per executable line of code. Mr Jones says that this estimate is accepted by the European Commission. It seems to be a broadly recognised bench-



He believes that the public sector — central and local government worldwide — takes up as much as 40 per cent of Gartner's billions because its equipment is mostly more old-fashioned than that in the private sector. "Small companies, on the other hand,

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Mr Cooke's advice to facilities managers is to tackle the problem early. This could avoid the embarrassment of having a computer expert, who has come to sort out a year 2000 failure, locked out of the building by a confused microchip.

Dave Allen, responsible for millennium services at computer group Logica, has such a client and says that

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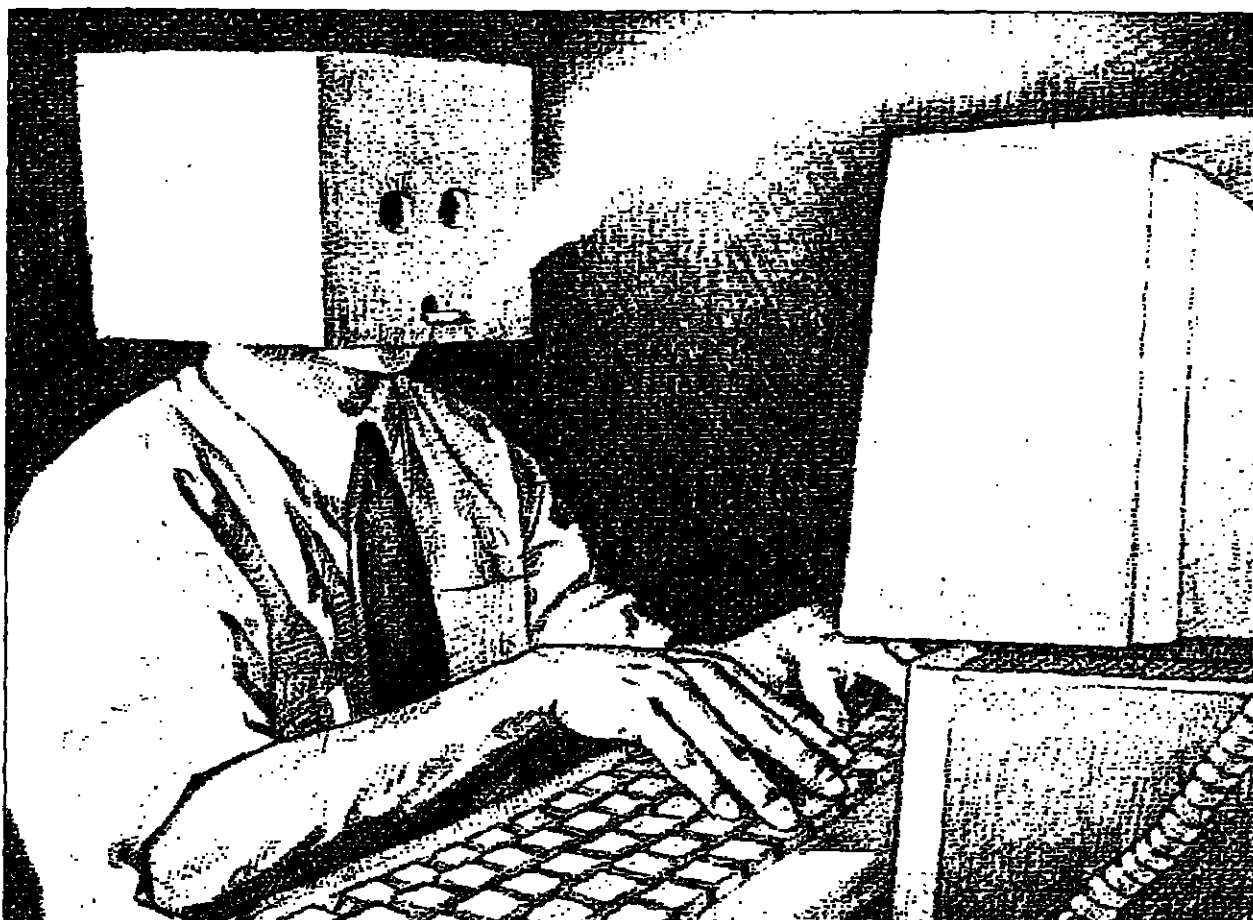
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Crisis? What crisis?

Far too many business people are still deaf to the ticking, says Graham Clayton



Beginning early is the best policy

QUICK START

While many companies are beginning to sweat as the millennium bomb ticks away, Chubb, the American insurance giant based at Warren, New Jersey, is radiating an air of confidence. The secret was spotting the problem early and moving quickly.

Late in 1994 the company's computer experts realised the seriousness of the year 2000 date change. They spent six months exploring the problem so they could go to the board with a full assessment of the impact. That meeting in mid-1995, says John Jung, the vice-president responsible, was short. The board grasped the issue immediately.

One of the advantages the company has is that despite its size, which makes it about number five globally, all its systems are at a single data centre. In all, about 150 systems will need to be made compliant and by the end of this year, 35 or 40 will have been completed. The aim is to have all the work finished early in 1998, leaving a full year for final testing.

To handle the work, the company set up a Year 2000 project office. This has ten full-time senior Chubb staff and 45 to 50 consultants. About 15 more will join this year. Computer Horizons Corp., with its Signature 2000 process (distributed in Britain by Delphi), is the "solution provider".

Mr Jung says: The cost is a big number and we are not talking about it. He will go so far as to say that it is multiple-millions, adding that this will not knock a hole in the company's profits, but some development work will be delayed.

He says: "The project is not a huge technical challenge as much as it is a huge management challenge. Our biggest surprise was that something so simple could take so long. The lesson for others is that it is important to start early."

GRAHAM CLAYTON

Anyone who watched the television series *Danger UNB* will have some idea of what it is like to defuse a bomb. Once the device has been found, it helps to know every detail about it before attempting to make it harmless.

The millennium bomb is similar, except that there are tens of millions of computers all over the world ticking their way to the year 2000 and many of their owners have no idea that a problem exists. When the millennium does come, or in some cases much earlier, things will start to go badly wrong.

Many computer experts have been aware of this for years. Some programmers who, ten or 20 years ago were writing software that stored the date as two digits, may now have become senior members of IT departments which are just beginning to wrestle with the consequences.

Gradually people outside the computing industry have begun to realise the seriousness of the situation. Ian Taylor, the Minister for Science and Technology, became worried when those with whom he raised it either seemed totally ignorant or said it was not serious. It soon became clear to him that the matter was indeed serious.

"This is a very stupid problem; a very stupid failure, but it is cumulatively massive. I spoke to the chief executive of one of our largest companies, who said it was only at the third attempt that he got a full version of the potential damage from his internal experts. As a result of this, the company set aside £50 million to deal with the problem."

At the Minister's invitation, the CBI and the Computing Services and Software Association set up Taskforce 2000 to alert British businesses and to help them to cope. At its head is Robin Guenier, former chief executive of the Government's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency.

He says that many big companies have programmes in hand. "But companies of the 500-employee, £50-million-turnover size, have a very limited understanding of the problem; in very small com-

panies, understanding is even more limited."

Mr Guenier places most of the blame on the heads of IT departments who, he thinks, are generally neither good managers nor good communicators. With irritation, he quotes the figures: only 70 per cent of IT managers are fully aware of the problem, only 76 per cent of those consider it to be serious, and only 8 per cent have done a full audit.

In his view, the key problem is that IT people are not managers and managers do not understand IT people because of technophobia. "So there is a

gap between the two and when people are not working together, things go wrong," he says.

A recent survey of IT projects, by Professor Chris Clegg at the University of Sheffield, suggests why IT is often held in low regard: 80 per cent of systems are late and over budget; 40 per cent fail or are abandoned; and only 10 to 15 per cent meet all their success criteria. This is deeply depressing when IT departments should be setting out on one of the most important projects ever undertaken — with a year 2000 deadline that is not negotiable.

Already the momentum is increasing but the supply of experts such as programmers, testers and project managers is limited. Dr Margaret Joachim, UK Year 2000 coordinator at the computer group EDS, thinks there are inadequate resources overall to meet everybody's needs.

Mr Guenier is optimistic that the job can be done on time if it is given top priority, and approached in a business-like way.

But he is still worried. "Every time I talk to a company that is getting on with it, without exception they tell me it is bigger than they thought," he says. "The only people who think it will not be too bad are those who have not started."

At the end of April this year the US Federal Government's Year 2000 Survey was sent out to 24 major departments and agencies. It made chilling reading.

It was designed to yield a status report of when and at what expense agencies plan to address the problem of computer software that is unable to recognize the year 2000.

"The Federal Government's computer systems rely on accurate date fields," said Stephen Horn, chairman of the House of Representatives subcommittee on government management, information and technology, to calculate age, transfer money and determine maintenance schedules for national security systems.

"Without converting these fields to interpret the turn of the century, government systems could potentially eliminate the transfer of money, erase database systems needed to send checks to eligible benefit recipients, and adversely impact critical missions, such as those conducted by the Department of Defense."

Even more alarming than the lack of awareness among "a great number of people in business and government" was the cost estimate to remedy the problem. This was said to be \$30 billion for the Federal Government alone.

The survey revealed that major departments were in the initial planning stages of their year 2000 efforts, even though agencies needed to have their systems inventoried and fixed by 1998, in order to test and ensure total accuracy.

This means that in the next year and a half these departments must complete their plans, take stock of and fix millions of lines of code, while simultaneously meeting agency needs.

"Even those agencies con-

sidered leaders on this issue, such as the Social Security Administration and the Department of Defense, are not close to completing the inventory and solution stages of conversion," added Mr Horn.

"According to the information received, only six agencies have cost estimates on the monetary resources needed to solve the problem. The total estimate for these six agencies and their departments is \$298 million."

The Defense Department had not yet completed its inventory of the computer software code which needs to be converted. The cost of fixing the \$58 million estimated lines of code could be between \$1.02 and \$8.52 a line. The cost of reviewing and fixing defence systems could therefore range between \$358 million and \$3 billion.

There are also special considerations where missiles and satellites are concerned — many of which have their own on-board "firmware". Changing this software could mean the physical replacement of chips that currently sit inside the missiles that contain the non-compliant "century-challenged" code.

Not even NASA had prepared a plan to solve the problem, said Horn. NASA did not expect to have a plan completed until March 1997, leaving less than a year to take stock and fix its systems.

A summary of the survey can be found on a Year 2000 information centre on the Internet at <http://www.year2000.com/>. This has become an invaluable resource for many who want online help to plan their year 2000 solutions. It was set up by Peter de Jager, a Canadian software guru, and the Tenagra Corporation, based in Texas.

Even those agencies con-

sidered leaders on this issue, such as the Social Security Administration and the Department of Defense, are not close to completing the inventory and solution stages of conversion," added Mr Horn.

"According to the information received, only six agencies have cost estimates on the monetary resources needed to solve the problem. The total estimate for these six agencies and their departments is \$298 million."

The Defense Department had not yet completed its inventory of the computer software code which needs to be converted. The cost of fixing the \$58 million estimated lines of code could be between \$1.02 and \$8.52 a line. The cost of reviewing and fixing defence systems could therefore range between \$358 million and \$3 billion.

There are also special considerations where missiles and satellites are concerned — many of which have their own on-board "firmware". Changing this software could mean the physical replacement of chips that currently sit inside the missiles that contain the non-compliant "century-challenged" code.

Not even NASA had prepared a plan to solve the problem, said Horn. NASA did not expect to have a plan completed until March 1997, leaving less than a year to take stock and fix its systems.

A summary of the survey can be found on a Year 2000 information centre on the Internet at <http://www.year2000.com/>. This has become an invaluable resource for many who want online help to plan their year 2000 solutions. It was set up by Peter de Jager, a Canadian software guru, and the Tenagra Corporation, based in Texas.

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Blind date holds no terror for the millennium-buster

Graham Clayton encounters Taskforce 2000's director

ROBIN Guenier, executive director of Taskforce 2000, is anxious to make clear that it is not just factory and office mainframes that will be in trouble as 2000 approaches — so could PCs, including those in the home. And, as someone accustomed to influencing government ministers and

chief executives, he believes in the personal demonstration.

A dapper figure who combines authority and enthusiasm, he came to my home to be interviewed. "Let's have a look at your computer," he

suggested when we'd finished. I was nervous, but he had, after all, spent some time as chief executive of the Government's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency.

"What we'll do," he said, "is set it to five minutes to midnight on December 31 1999, then switch it off."

We waited for six minutes. It started up normally. Then, with the style of a practised performer, he asked the com-

puter for the date and invited me to look: 04/01/80.

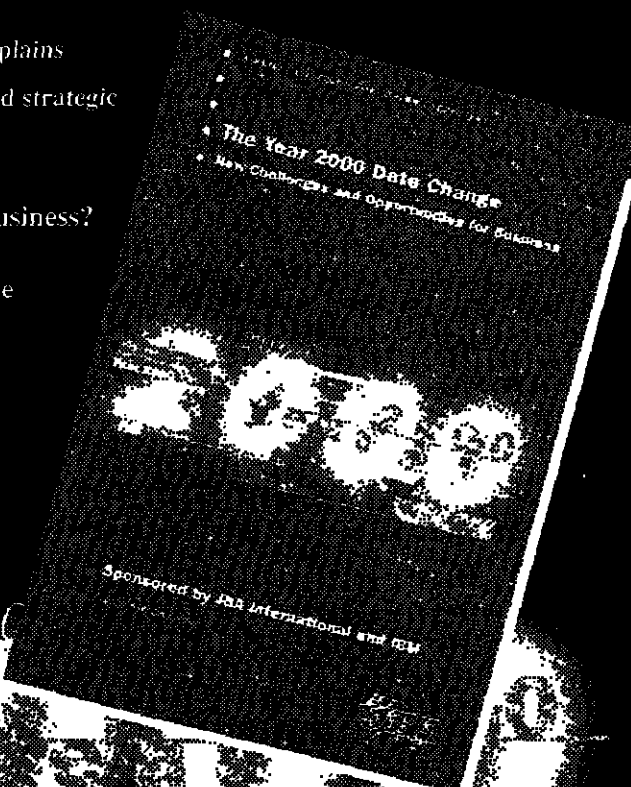
"Apparently the computer knows that that is the date on which DOS, the operating system, was invented," he said. "Some people say it's the birthdate of Microsoft's founder, Bill Gates. But actually, he's not that young."

- An Authoritative Guide to the Year 2000 Date Change

Fact OR Fiction, Hype OR Horror Story

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- How can risk and impact be evaluated?
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Whereas the Great Dane will be wailing down no less than four and a half pounds of sustenance every 24 hours.

Interesting, but what's it got to do with printers?

Thus, like puppies, network printers look pretty similar at purchase — in size, quality and, crucially, in price.

It's only when you analyse respective running costs that the difference becomes apparent.

Around a penny a page apparent, in fact. Which means that over three years the average life of a network printer, a Kyocera printer could cost £3,800* less to run than a comparable printer.

Yes, that's right, £3,800. Now calculate — no, second thoughts, sit down first — that saving applied to every printer on your network.

(It goes without saying that Kyocera has a complete range of printers, fully compatible with all major environments and operating systems.)

This lower cost of ownership can largely be attributed to Kyocera's unique cartridge-free concept.

In layman's terms, you only pay for the tone, instead of looking out to replace the whole cartridge — including toner, drum, developer, gears, and goodness knows what.

In accountants' terms, your business can be more profitable with printers from Kyocera.

Call now for your free copy of the Kyocera cost of ownership demonstration disk.

And talk to your Network Manager about cost of ownership in general and Kyocera printers in particular.

After all, you don't want to get sold another pup.

THE SMART MONEY'S ON



Example: Based on a 100% duty cycle, 600 dpi, 11x17 inch paper, 100 sheets per minute, 100% toner coverage. Actual results may vary. *Based on a 100% duty cycle, 600 dpi, 11x17 inch paper, 100 sheets per minute, 100% toner coverage. Actual results may vary.

2000 — a date oddity...

Riots in the streets, blood bank stores going astray... armageddon is just around the corner, if you believe some pundits.

Talk to some businessmen and the opposite picture emerges. The 2000 timebomb? A damp squib — in fact, a trumped-up scam.

Where does the truth lie? It has certainly proved difficult, for example, to find the three major airlines which are often reported to be preparing to ground their fleets as the clocks tick round to January 1, 2000. The Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system, used to direct cruise missiles to their targets and supertankers into harbours, will be fixed in time. It seems unlikely that there will be food rioting if supermarket tills fail to operate. But could finance houses be toppled?

Massimo Spalla, an associate partner with Andersen Consulting working in the south of France, doubts it. "It is a tough problem, but not so dramatic as it is perceived," he says. "I don't believe that companies will stop, but we will see them forced to do a lot of work to correct it, and that will slow them down."

Microsoft, in its submission to the House of Representatives, does not dismiss the dangers. "Different types of complex systems like vehicles, manufacturing machinery, chemical

THE MYTHS

compounds and even government or business organizations may have individual components which operate correctly according to their target specifications but may not function correctly as a system when connected with many other components."

David Ayling-Smith, services director of Cognos, the software solution company, is convinced by the threat. He has a list of "seven deadly millennium myths":

- It's a simple technical problem — just expand the date fields.
- All I need to do is change my dictionary default century to 20.
- We've got plenty of time.
- All our systems will be replaced by 2000.
- We don't have the problem, all our applications are new.
- Someone will invent a 100 per cent automated solution.
- Outsourcing our conversion effort will solve the problem.

Not one of these statements is true, say Mr Ayling-Smith, and he can prove it. Meanwhile the word is that Nebraska is fixing its own software by levying a two-cent tax on cigarettes. Mr Clarke, take note.

PETER BROWN

All methods of defusing the 2000 bomb will take time, says John Stevenson

The so-called year 2000 bug is as much about how different departments or business units interact as it is about bits and bytes.

If you apply for a loan, the department that processes loan applications will probably check with a mortgage payment department to ascertain whether you pay on time. It may also send a message to an insurance department to draw up an income-protection insurance policy. It will certainly communicate with a credit-checking system owned and operated by a separate independent company, to get a credit rating.

Nearly all of this will be done automatically — the different computer systems talking one to another. So any analysis of a business needs to start with an understanding of how the components interact.

All of this helps to explain the rash of consultancies offering to analyse and address year 2000 problems. Each has its own technical panacea but the overall plan is vital: it will highlight those elements of the computer systems that must be addressed now and those that can be deferred.

There are three types of



solution to what is, in essence, a gigantic project management exercise with a fixed completion date:

● **Method 1:** A company can recruit experts to sift through all the source code, manually checking each system and fixing the problems. "Managing such a project 'in-house' benefits the organisation in so

far as it retains control and authority", explains Peter Sibson, business development manager with Olympic Management Services. "It will help the organisation to understand their systems better. It may also help them to anticipate and deal with a future crisis (like the ramifications of a European currency)."

This method, however, assumes that the relevant expertise can be readily recruited. Unfortunately, it is not. "Experts in 25-year-old programming languages are rare and getting rarer. There are also very expensive. In fact the better they are, the greater the likelihood they have already been recruited," says Paul

Weller, business development director with the Year 2000 specialists Chase Software Solutions.

● **Method 2:** Give the problem to someone else. Hand over all the source code and an explanation of the business dynamics to the consultants. Make them responsible for delivering a finished set of

computer systems. With this approach, the organisation should solve the problem. The consultants probably have access to all the best programmers. Perhaps they are able to sub-contract all the work to the Pacific Rim or Indian sub-continent, where excellent programmers can be hired at a fraction of the cost of their Western counterparts.

The downside is that the organisation itself has lost control. It understands neither the problem nor the solution.

● **Method 3:** Use a set of software tools or programs to fix the problems. Automate the process. After all, automating dull, repetitive, labour intensive tasks is what computers were invented for — why should this be any different? Machine, heal thyself.

The hitch is that understanding source code may be dull, but it is not wholly repetitive. Each programmer writes in a different style, using and expressing dates in a range of different ways. So before software tools can solve the problem, they have to be "taught" the writing style of the individual programmer(s).

"It can take a skilled program analyst two or three months to teach a software tool the rules it needs to fix a specific system," says Mr Weller. "Once this process is complete, the tool will probably fix the vast majority of problems in a matter of hours. Then the iterative process of fixing the outstanding problems begins."

All of which means that this approach suits organisations with large amounts of source code to check and fix.

Smaller does not mean better

Millions of people all over the world will turn their IBM compatible PCs off at the end of this century and turn them back on in the next, only to find they've lost 20 years of their lives. Their computers will have reverted to January 4, 1980, the birthdate of DOS.

Test your PC. If it's a fairly new model, it is likely to click over quite happily to January 1, 2000. This may not help. The dawn of the millennium could easily damage time-dependent software like e-mail, accountancy and database packages.

Though media attention has been on the danger to mainframe computers, the millennium bug is none the less alive and kicking on the desktop.

Microsoft, manufacturer of Windows, the operating system installed on more than 80 million personal computers worldwide, has also admitted that there is a problem with the year 2000 and versions 3.1 and 3.11 of its programme.

"Microsoft Windows displays an incorrect date if the file is created with a date of 01-01-2000 or later," the company says. "Microsoft has confirmed this to be a problem in File Manager version 3.1. We are researching this problem and will post new information... as it becomes available."

Other versions of its Windows operating system won't suffer any problems, Microsoft insists. "By virtue of its initial design, the Windows NT platform will not have the same sort of trouble experienced by older mainframe applications... the Windows NT platform is 'aware' of many centuries into the future."

Other programmes which hold time-critical data such as the database programme

Microsoft SQL Server, Microsoft Access and Microsoft can also cope with the changeover to the new century.

However, underlying even the Microsoft applications in each IBM-compatible is the BIOS — basic input-output system. And it is this which will produce the wrong date.

Apple, however, says that every single computer it has built since it began in 1984 will handle the year 2000 correctly, and will go on handling the date correctly until at least the year 2040, when computers may run out of dates.



Guenier (left) and de Jager: both out to make PC-users aware that their machines could be just as vulnerable as a mainframe

The latest Apples can cope with dates from 30,081 BC to 29,940 AD, together with support for the Arabic astronomical and civic lunar calendars, the Jewish calendar and the Iranian national calendar.

There are, however, many makes of PCs on the market. They could all go wrong. Robin Guenier, executive director of Taskforce 2000, is particularly concerned that PC owners should be aware that the 2000 bug is not confined to mainframes.

Chief among the 2000 "evangelists" is Peter de Jager, author of the Year 2000 pages on the Internet. "Based upon

predictions of people involved in the Year 2000 problem, upwards of 80 per cent of existing PCs are unreliable," he says. "On Jan 1st 2000, more than 80 million PCs will think the Berlin wall is still standing and that Trudeau is still the Prime Minister of Canada."

"All your applications, spreadsheets, accounting packages, day-timers, E-mail systems, even backup cycles will be at risk a few years from now, unless you solve the problem."

Users have a number of potential solutions, he says, but none of them are really acceptable. "You could replace all your computers. A few letters to vendors explaining how you're a tad upset might be appropriate."

"You could apply a kludge [makeshift repair] to your operating system — have it read 1980 from the BIOS and add 20 years. The trouble is, each PC fails differently, so making sure all your PCs have been fixed, and remain fixed, will be a logistical nightmare."

Another option many are more likely to opt for is to simply do nothing. because "You'll probably be in a different job; someone else will fix it; it can't be as bad as I make out etc."

Initially, he says, he thought his 80 per cent assessment of affected PCs was too high, but a further survey in Canada failed 97 per cent of tested PCs.

"Now," he continues, "ask yourself the question: If the manufacturers of PCs could make this type of error, what leads you to believe your accounting software is safe and will handle the Year 2000 correctly?"

CHRIS WARD

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COMPANIES

converting their codes should be careful how they do it. Sanjay Kumar, President of the software giant Computer Associates, tells the tale of the corporate customer that did all its conversion work, then brought in some employees to test it over the weekend when the system was not in use. Geoff Wheelwright writes.

The company "rolled forward" the clock on its main computer and checked that all date-based calculations and applications worked correctly when the date was set to January 1, 2000. Satisfied, the employees then rolled the clock back to 1996 and went home for the

rest of the weekend. On Monday, they discovered that some of their back-up data files for recent work had been wiped out.

The reason was simple. The automatic data backup system used by the company was designed to conserve storage space by erasing data more than two years old. The backup system had been "fooled" into thinking that there was lots of data on the system that had not been used for more than three years. It erased the lot.

Another company had a system designed to delete passwords and network identifications if they were not used for 18 months. The result for its employees on the Monday morning was predictable.

HELPLINE

■ Immediate help: The Computing Services and Suppliers Association has a Web site with details of year 2000 conferences, surveys, specialists and products links to related sites: <http://www.cssa.co.uk/> <http://www.millen.htm>

■ Two conferences are planned: the first is at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, in London, on October 18. Speakers include the Science and Technology Minister Ian Taylor. Contact: 018 979 5888. The second, the Year 2000 Conference, is at the Ramada Hotel, Heathrow, October 23-25. Speakers include independent consultant Peter de Jager. Contact: 0181-466 4014 or <http://www.spgnet.com>

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

Source: FT Information

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Output rise expected

The first key British statistics of the week are today's figures for industrial production and manufacturing in August. The median market expectation, according to MMS International, is for a rise of 0.3 per cent in industrial production, giving a year-on-year growth rate of 0.8 per cent. Manufacturing output is expected to have risen 0.4 per cent, which would still leave output 0.3 per cent lower than the same month a year ago.

Tomorrow, the markets will start watching the Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth with interest. On Wednesday, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, addresses the conference, a speech that will be watched closely for any further insights into his budget thinking or European policy. Also on that day, the minutes of the monetary meeting of September 4 are released: these will be scrutinised to see whether the Bank of England's preference for higher interest rates has hardened into a formal recommendation. Wednesday also sees publication of the September distributive trades survey from the Confederation of British Industry.

On Thursday, September's retail prices figures are released. The two main measures of inflation are expected to be unchanged from August's levels, with headline inflation at 2.1 per cent and underlying inflation at 2.8 per cent. RPIY, the measure that excludes mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, is predicted to fall to 2.3 per cent from 2.4 per cent.

There are no British statistics of note on Friday, but a key batch of American statistics, in particular retail sales and producer prices. The markets, buoyed at the end of last week by a far weaker than expected employment report for September, are eager for every American statistic to inform the debate about the extent to which the economy is slowing down spontaneously and therefore precluding the need for higher US interest rates.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Grampian, Chiroscience, Moss Bros; Sell LucasVarity. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Allied Leisure, Zeneca, TLS, Thorn, Silentnight Holdings. The Observer: Buy South West Water; Sell Cairn Energy. Independent on Sunday: Buy Queensborough Holdings, Singer & Friedlander, Monument Oil & Gas; Sell Unilever. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Gearhouse, Folkes, Jordet.

TODAY

Interims: Arcadian International, Bischi Mining, Chiroscience, Cobham, Doeflex, London & Associated Properties, Moss Bros Group. Finals: Manganese Bronze, Tay Homes. Economics: UK August industrial output, manufacturing production; US August consumer credit.

TOMORROW

Interims: Capital & Regional Properties, HTR, Income & Growth,

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK



LucasVarity ready to flatter



Alex Ferguson, club manager: on-field results score better

LUCASVARIETY: Half-year figures tomorrow will be the last reported by the group in its pre-merger form. As a result, they will have little meaning when it comes to assessing prospects.

Even so, the figures should make impressive reading, with pre-tax profits recovering from £39 million to £185 million. NatWest Securities, the broker, says results from the automotive division should show all parts of the business moving in the right direction, although there is still concern about the French automotive market. The City will also be looking for evidence of recovery in the depressed aerospace division, which the group has been looking to dispose of. Earnings per share will have grown from 9.5p to 12.3p, but the dividend is likely to be held at 7p.

COBHAM: There may be scope for celebration when Cobham unveils half-year figures this morning. Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, expects pre-tax profits to grow by almost 40 per cent, from £14.1 million to £19.5 million. The group's performance should be bolstered by a first-time contribution from Westwind where initial results have been consistent with the 20 per cent per annum compound growth target in the long-term management incentive scheme, Henderson says.

In the meantime, Cobham has benefited from the increase in both Boeing and Airbus Industrie production schedules. There has also been a pick-up in export deliveries of military aircraft such as the Tornado, Hawk and

Harrier, from which the group should be able to benefit.

MANCHESTER UNITED:

The group's financial performance this time round is unlikely to match its performance on the field when it unveils half-year figures tomorrow. Brokers are looking at a small downturn in profits at the pre-tax level, from £16.3 million to £13.6 million. Shareholders are expected to be rewarded with an increase from 4.5p to 4.85p in the half-year

payout. The setback is almost exclusively attributable to construction of the new main stand, which reduced capacity at Old Trafford by around 30,000.

The dramatic increase in revenue should enable the group to reach profits of £23.3 million for the full year, boosted by a guaranteed £5 million from the European Champions Cup.

SKYPHARMA: Half-year figures from the pharmaceutical group on Thursday are likely to

be of little relevance. They are expected to reveal a further loss and will contain the remaining three months of operations of the original "shell" company, Black & Edgington, before it was sold. Skypharma is now the vehicle of Ian Gowrie Smith, former head of Medeva, and brokers will be anxious to see whether the group lives up to predictions.

Last year Skypharma reduced its losses to £300,000 but faces an uphill climb before moving back into the black sometime in 1998. The company's broker, SBC Warburg, is forecasting a pre-tax loss for 1996 of £10 million, with the deficit growing to £12.7 million next year. Even after it moves into the black it is unlikely shareholders will get a return.

AUSTIN REED: Half-year figures on Wednesday are likely to show another retailer on the recovery track. Pre-tax profits are expected to have grown by £500,000, to £1.9 million, with earnings per share 1p better at 4p. The recovery will have been assisted by a strong showing in women's wear and an improvement in manufacturing profits. At the annual meeting, the group reported sales up 10 per cent with margins also improving. The dividend is likely to be held at 2p.

COUNTRY CASUALS: A reduced first-half loss is on the cards when the group reports on Wednesday, with analysts looking for a deficit of £600,000 (£1.5 million). The earnings per share deficit is likely to be cut from 7.9p to 3p and there may be a 1p increase in the dividend to 1.48p.

JOX Oil & Gas, Morgan Grenfell Latin American, Skypharma, Toys & Co, Tudor, United Industries. Finals: China Investment & Development, Cradley Group Holdings, John Maunders. Economics: UK retail prices index.

FRIDAY

Interims: Alpha Airports, Wensum Co. Finals: none scheduled. Economics: CBI distributive trades survey; US September producer prices; US September retail sales.

Clarke's reasons to be miserable

I must be galling for the Chancellor. The lagged performance of the gilt market over the past few weeks sums up Kenneth Clarke's frustration over the Government's reluctance to sign up for European Monetary Union (EMU).

While other European bond markets have been swept along by "Euro-phoria" over confidence in the launch of EMU, gilts have risen only modestly. Worse still for Mr Clarke, even those gains coincided with pro-European noises from last week's Labour conference.

What makes this especially hard for Mr Clarke to take is that he has helped to manoeuvre the UK economy into being better placed than most to meet EMU entry criteria.

Adding to his agony is the thought that the stubbornly high yield gap between gilts and German bonds encapsulates the markets' mistrust of the Government's — and his — promises. Sadly, the reluctance to sign up for EMU raises market doubts about his willingness to stick to the monetary and fiscal virtue.

The gilt market's battle-hardened cynicism is shown by its wariness towards Mr Clarke's decision to reject Bank of England advice to raise interest rates. With an election looming, any decision not to raise rates, let alone to cut them further, is likely to be seen as "politically motivated". In the US, with a presidential election only weeks off, the Federal Reserve has faced accusations of political bias after deciding not to raise rates.

Such accusations obscure a new debate in economics. One view is that economic growth in the US and the UK is unsustainably strong and will lead to higher inflation unless interest rates are raised soon. This reflects the early 1990s obsession with "resource utilisation" as the key to the inflation process. It argued that if unemployment is allowed to fall too far, wage inflation will come under upward pressure, leading to higher consumer price inflation.

Yet the experience of the current upswing has cast doubt on the view that there is a mechanical link between re-

source utilisation and inflation. As the Bank of England has found, forecasts using that approach have systematically overpredicted actual inflation.

The opposing view is that a number of structural forces have together held down inflation, changing its relationship with economic growth. Increasing global competition, new technology, privatisation, labour market liberalisation and the experience of low inflation itself have combined to dampen the impact of stronger economic activity on inflation.

For those reasons, Mr Clarke is likely to continue to have the better of the argument with the Bank. Although higher oil prices may put upward pressure on inflation in the next few months, it should fall back next year. However, with the economy set to accelerate, the old school, with its "inflation is around the corner" refrain, is likely to stay vocal.

The sad fact is that Mr Clarke's pledge of anti-inflation vigilance cuts little ice in the markets without a commitment to join EMU. Although the reality of EMU may disappoint, the markets see it as a chance to gain from 30-odd years of inflation credibility built by the Bundesbank.

Mistrust of the Government's intentions applies also to fiscal policy. Mr Clarke's pledges of budgetary prudence have failed to end talk of pre-election tax-cut "bribes". Across the Channel, budget cuts in France, Belgium, Spain and Italy based on "creative accounting" are treated almost as a triumph. The difference is that the latter are seen not as politically self-serving but as paving the way to the virtuous goal of EMU. The end, it seems, justifies the means.

No doubt the Euro-sceptics at this week's Conservative conference would disagree. The gilt market, they might argue, would be well placed to benefit if EMU ended in tears. However, for the moment, it is the Chancellor who will be crying into his beer.

MARK CLIFFE
HSBC Markets

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Labour looks at EU policy

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

LABOUR is considering proposals which will make clear to business the basis on which it intends to participate in decisions on future European social legislation.

Business and the Government are bracing themselves for a decision by the European Council on the UK's objection to the legal basis of the EU's 48-hour working time directive, with ministers in parallel ready for the court to deliver its judgment this week as the Conservative Party meets in Bournemouth.

The decision of the court, whenever it comes, will reopen the political controversy in the UK over Europe's programme of employment legislation.

Business and the Government have been keen to see some fleshing out of the claim by Tony Blair, the leader of the Labour Party, that in signing the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty, a future Labour government would be able to pick and choose on future European employment law.

Economy would grow under Blair, says accountant

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

A NEW Labour government would present no danger to the continuing growth of the British economy, partly because the high level of public borrowing will force it to be cautious on taxation and spending, according to a forecast published today by the Ernst & Young ITEM Club.

ITEM argues that Labour will find it difficult to deliver its promise of a 10p lower income-tax band and still restore the public finances to a sustainable path unless it finds other ways to claw back tax revenue.

All aspects of the report, entitled *New Labour - No Danger*, assume that Labour wins the forthcoming election.

ITEM, the only private-sector forecaster to use the Treasury's econometric model of the economy, forecasts that, under Labour, growth will accelerate to 3.25 per cent next year, that unemployment will

fall to 6.5 per cent of the workforce by the end of 1998 and that inflation will rise to more than 3.5 per cent by early 1999 because of strong consumer demand.

ITEM argues that an incoming Labour government would have to raise interest rates after a spring election, perhaps to 7 per cent by the end of 1997, compared with 5.75 per cent now, if it sticks with the current inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less.

Paul Droop, ITEM's chief economist, said he expected some significant risks to the economy in the run-up to the election because the Chancellor may be under pressure to maximise growth. "The Chancellor should avoid any political calls to reduce interest rates further, as this could cause a repeat of the type of conditions experienced in the late 1980s."

ITEM also predicts that

Labour would have to tighten fiscal policy, given its assumption that Kenneth Clarke will cut income taxes by £3.5 billion in next month's Budget.

It argues that Labour will be able to deliver its 10p lower tax band only if it finds ways to offset the cost. It suggests a combination of an increased tax rate of 50 pence in the pound for those earning more than £100,000, phasing out mortgage-interest relief altogether and raising employees' National Insurance contributions.

It said that Labour's national minimum wage proposals would have little effect on unemployment or inflation if the level was set as low as £3 an hour, although even this would mean an increased wage bill in 1998, when the economy is expected to be vulnerable to inflation pressures as unemployment falls.



Some 20,000 Rover staff from production workers to directors, and their families, enjoyed a sneak preview of their new working clothes at a fashion display staged at the company's plant in Swindon, Wiltshire, over the weekend by the supplier, Sketchley Textile Services

Irish can afford to smile

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

IRISH citizens will be wealthier than their British counterparts by 2000, according to research by the economic policy and statistics section of the

House of Commons. Researchers say that GDP per capita in the Irish Republic will rise to £12,511, compared with £12,623 in Britain. The Republic pushed its per capita GDP ahead of Northern Ireland in 1993 and Wales

last year. The research came after Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, told its annual conference that the Irish had no natural resources, but "used imagination and human resources to drive their economy forward".

Williams plays down sale talk

Sources close to Williams Holdings, the diversified conglomerate, were last night playing down reports that some of its best brand names in building products, including Amdega conservatories, Smallbone kitchens and Swish curtains, had attracted the attention of a trade buyer.

Williams has indicated in the past that some of its building products were not regarded as core businesses and that they could be sold at a future date.

Banks vital

Britain's small businesses are still reliant on the banks for funding and are failing to generate enough profit to become self-financing, according to a joint survey from Pannell Kerr Forster, the firm of accountants, and the Federation of Small Businesses. With most borrowings secured by personal guarantee, their proprietors are personally vulnerable.

Listing sought

Total Office Group, a distributor of office furniture, is to seek a full stock market listing this month with a value of around £28 million. The company is raising £5 million of fresh funds by means of a placing by Credit Lyonnais Laing.

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8 GIBB FONDENT

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Home sales 'to grow 7%'

HOUSING market activity in England and Wales, measured by property sales, is expected to show growth of 7 per cent in 1997 after a similar rise this year.

The predictions are from Cambridge Econometrics, the economic forecaster. But it says prospects vary by region. The strongest increase in activity is expected in Greater London and the West Midlands, but

the largest price rises are likely in the South (excluding London), and Scotland.

The Halifax Building Society said house prices last month were down 0.1 per cent on August but 5.2 per cent higher than a year ago. The Nationwide, meanwhile, said prices were 6.7 per cent higher last month than in September 1995, the biggest annual change since 1989.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5633 (Same)
German mark 2.3914 (+0.00821)
Exchange index 87.1 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2857.8 (+35.4)
FT-SE 100 4024.8 (+78.4)
New York Dow Jones 5992.86 (+119.94)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 21148.03 (-398.99)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.08	1.92
Austria Sch	17.84	16.34
Belgium Fr	52.29	47.99
Canada \$	2.257	2.077
Cyprus Cyp£	0.766	0.710
Denmark Kr	9.75	8.96
Finland Mkk	7.71	7.06
France Fr	8.50	7.85
Germany Dm	2.55	2.34
Greece Dr	385	368
Hong Kong \$	12.74	11.74
Iceland \$	115	95
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.37	4.72
Italy Lira	2488	2333
Japan Yen	188.70	172.70
Malta	0.607	0.552
Netherlands Gld	2.857	2.607
New Zealand \$	2.39	2.17
Norway Kr	10.73	9.93
Portugal Esc	253.50	235.00
S Africa Rd	7.67	6.87
Spain Pla	208.00	195.00
Sweden Kr	10.59	10.19
Switzerland Fr	2.10	1.92
Turkey Lira	147000	139000
USA \$	1.664	1.534

Notes: (a) small denominations bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. (b) rates may vary slightly from the figures shown. (c) rates as at close of trading on Friday.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

OCULOGYRIC

(c) Eye-rolling, from the Latin *oculus* an eye + *gyrus* a circle or ring. "Pay attention all male children in this household above the age of six. Your mother is inquiring about the origin of certain muddy footprints found on the sitting-room carpet. Report to you mother at once. And be warned: while total frenzy has not yet occurred, the oculogyric phase has already started."

FRIPPET

(a) A frivolous female show-off. Not to be confused (though, let's face it, the confusion is common and most men make it at least once during this life) with a *popper*, or dear little girl. And certainly not to be confused with a *frisket*, which is the iron frame of a hand press.

LUCRIPETOUS

(c) Avaricious, money-hungry. From the Latin *lucrum* (filthy) lucre or money + *petere* to seek. A synonym for *nummiferous* (loving *nummi* or coinage). Both words are suitable for muttered but obscure aspersions upon the motives of second-hand car dealers, estate agents, funeral directors and journalists, when in their presence.

VARLET

(c) A low, menial scoundrel. One of many words of medieval origin denoting scruff status. The prevalence of such words suggests a high incidence of unsavouriness and class consciousness in the Middle Ages. A *lackey* is an obsequious and servile hanger-on. A *knave* is a low-class rogue. A *cut-throat* is a base and despicable person. A *vizzini* is also a lowly creature, but not as necessarily disreputable as *scurvy* varlets, *knaves* and *cut-throats*.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxe4! 2 Kxe5 3 Nd4! 4 Kb5 5 Re5+ 6 Kxe4 7 Rg8+ 8 Ke7 5 Nf5 checkmate.

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everything from new entrant training for school leavers, including Modern Apprenticeships, through to new skills training for experienced personnel. And we are the lead industry body for construction craft NVQs and SVQs in the building, specialist building and civil engineering sectors of the construction industry. Courses can range from half a day to several months to fit the needs of employers. And we help up to 100,000 people a year. But we don't know who to help if you don't tell us.

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CITB

DOING SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE

Calm after the storm as Granada decides to sit back and take stock

Alasdair Murray
finds out why
Gerry Robinson
refuses to be
rushed by
restless City

The word quiet is not normally one that is associated with the Granada that Gerry Robinson and his team have built up in the past few years. The media and hotels company is rarely out of the news, and its battle to win control of Forte early this year gripped the nation.

But the words currently on the lips of Mr Robinson, Granada's chairman, are less exciting terms such as "consolidation" and "bedding in". Forte is the company's biggest acquisition, and after a year of frantic activity it wants to take stock before considering its next move.

So far the market has been mostly content to sit back and watch the company try to fulfil the promises it made during the bid — including raising the Forte-derived profits by £100 million. But once a company has built its reputation on a high-octane style, the City can quickly start to feel withdrawal symptoms during a period of relative quiet. Already, the first mutterings about the company's future have begun.

The questions have centred on whether Granada really should be combining the worlds of media and hotels in the one business. Inevitably, demerger is close to the heart of the argument. Mr Robinson takes a pragmatic approach to the criticism, not rejecting the idea of demerger outright, but emphasising that the immediate task is to complete the integration of Forte. He is also wary of becoming tied to a strategy by floating ideas such as demerger, when the company is not ready for it.

"We have just made our biggest ever acquisition," he says. "Of course, you could split the two businesses, but I don't think you should get into that argument or you will quickly be caught in what I term the Thorn dilemma. Sir Colin Southgate could hardly open his door, after he floated the idea of demerger, without someone rushing to ask when the split would take place."

Mr Robinson also has a second line of reasoning to disarm potential critics of the company's structure. He points out that it was clear where the company was moving at the time of the Forte bid and shareholders were only too willing at that stage to accept the company's strategy. He says: "I think you can keep the businesses together perfectly happily by running them tightly in the way that we do. That is where we said we were coming from at the time of the bid and that has not changed to date."

For the moment, however,



Gerry Robinson at Granada's new motorway service station

Granada's ability to continue to raise profits and, to a certain extent, its share price, has prevented the cry for demerger becoming widespread. The management is only too happy to dispense with the theoretical and simply carry on with improving the business in hand. After all, although Granada is pleased with the progress of Forte, Mr Robinson accepts that there is still at least another year's work to be done.

"The management structure in the new businesses has been put in place quite quickly, and it is amazing how quickly people can adapt to a new culture," he explains. "But I think it will take a year to 18 months to complete the process."

One vital step towards the integration of Forte is the sale of the Exclusive chain of hotels, valued at about £850 million, which should be completed by early next year. While some have been disappointed by the relatively slow progress, the continuing upturn in the hotel market has effectively played into the company's hands. Mr Robinson says: "Sales always take longer if you want a proper auction. You have to

make information and data available to ensure a proper round of bidding. But we have been extraordinarily lucky about timing. We did not anticipate the pick-up in hotel trading was going to be quite so strong."

Once Exclusive is gone, the company will be free to concentrate on employing its familiar business skills on its mid-price and budget hotel chains. Mr Robinson believes that there is room for a "phenomenal" amount of expansion at the Travelodge end of the market.

He was critical of Forte at the time of the bid for directing investment towards its up-market hotels and ignoring the opportunities for site-driven growth at the other end of the market. Granada is already testing new Travelodge city centre sites, including one at Battersea, south London.

The company is also working hard on expanding the Posthouse chain. Mr Robinson said: "There are any number of Posthouses which need a small extension, and there are good, fast construction methods to ensure these can be developed very quickly."

This form of organic expansion



Granada believes that Travelodge, the budget hotel chain, has huge expansion potential



Early motorway services are a far cry from the state-of-the-art stations now being built

is not very exciting, of course, but the company believes it is effective. "Extensions give very high returns — between 20 and 25 per cent — because the basic infrastructure is already in place," Mr Robinson explains.

The catering businesses are also enjoying the same treatment. Granada last week unveiled its new £20 million state-of-the-art motorway service station at Stafford.

Mr Robinson says: "We want to get away from the very negative image of the motorway service station by providing something fresh and new. We want to provide a place where brands are familiar and the customers can feel comfortable."

The company is adding the Little Chef brand to its motorway service stations, while the Burger King franchises, already part of the motorway chain, are being rolled out across the Little Chef roadside outlets. "Adding Burger King outlets, has doubled the turnover at Little Chef," Mr Robinson says. "Little Chefs have traditionally had a heavy meal-

based throughput. But Burger King pushes through quite solidly from 11 in the morning."

The sale of the Welcome Break motorway service stations, which were acquired as part of the Forte bid, will also take place in the new year.

It is only in the media side of the business that Granada has been active in the market. It recently converted warrants in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees to give it effectively a 27 per cent stake and a seemingly impenetrable grip on the company.

Although Granada has teased the market about its intentions for Yorkshire, partly to try to keep down the price — somewhere about £550 million for the remaining 73 per cent — it is clearly not a case of if, but when it buys the company.

Mr Robinson says: "Inevitably we will buy the company, provided it is at the right price. But we have made it very difficult for anyone else to buy it, so there is no rush."

The Granada name has also been quite prominent on billboards across the country as it pushes its new channels on Sky. But critics of the media side of the business have argued that the company is in

danger of being left behind by the global players. "There are clearly limits to what we can do in the global media," Mr Robinson admits. "But if you look at the people who have seriously burst through the media mire, they are all huge risk-takers. The prices being paid for channels at the moment are simply not viable."

Mr Robinson believes that by concentrating on becoming a major programming force, the company still has a rosy future in the sector. "Content is the key," he explains. "With our links with Sky, Fox and Star in the Far East, there are already a serious number of platforms for our programming."

But, in general, the impression Mr Robinson is giving is that he prefers the current "normal" state of affairs to the cut and thrust of big acquisition battles. "I hated the Forte bid," he said, "because you are absolutely out of control, with the battle simply flying to and fro over your head."

"The great relief has been discovering since it's over that what we thought was in the company is actually there and that people respond very well to our management style."

RADIO CHOICE

A Faust for our times

The Price of Survival. Radio 4, 9.15pm.

Not many journalists dare admit that they sometimes behaved duplicitously. Andras Sugar is one of that company. He is interviewed by Mishu Glenny, formerly a BBC World Service correspondent. He must have had to face the same dilemma — whether to speak out against a moral wrong from the outside or remain on the inside and expose it more effectively as a result. On two historic occasions, Sugar, while working for the Hungarian state news agency MTI, chose not to make a professional stand against aggression. The first was during the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956, then in 1968 when Warsaw Pact forces invaded Czechoslovakia. Incarcerated martyrs, Sugar implies, don't make good journalists, and Faustian pacts can end unhappily for Mephistopheles.

Battling with the Past. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

The dissection of Napoleon is performed by four academics, with Ronald Hutton looking on as pathologist in chief. The scalpel's spare no body part. The examination of what Hutton calls Napoleon's "internal plumbing factor" is so thorough that his terrible piles are diagnosed as a reason for his getting a bloody nose at Waterloo. Loose bowels did not, however, mar his victory at Borodino. His literary prowess is dismissed as Mills and Boon compared, though it is conceded that his civil code would have made him an ideal designer of comprehensible tax codes for the Inland Revenue. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session, with Steve Lamacq 9.00 Cling Firm with Mark Kermode and Mary Anne Hobbs 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00am Chive Warran

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Alex Lester 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Matchroom Laycock, with Dance Band Days 9.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Star Spangled Voices (25) 10.30 Allan Stewart, singing in for The Jamiesons 12.05am Adrian Frighan 3.00 Steve Madden

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme and at 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, with Brian Hayes, and 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mai, incl 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, incl 3.05 Actually 4.00 Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News, 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.35 Football Legends, featuring Jimmy Hill 8.00 Sunday and Northern Ireland 8.05 Football Forum 10.05 News Talk, with Mike Baker 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Ræum 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Drivetime, with Peter Dealey 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Walsh 1.00am Mike Dickinson

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour 5.30 Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Soundbite 7.30 Andy Kershaw 8.15 On the Shelf, Heaveho 8.30 The Village Chart Show 9.15 The Ecological Fightback in Latin America 9.30 Keep to the Path 10.05 Business 10.15 Anything Goes 10.30 Sport 11.30 BBC English 11.45 On the Shelf 12.30 Omnibus 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Andy Kershaw 3.05 Outlook 3.30 John Peel 4.05 Sport 4.15 5.05 English 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25 Take Five 6.30 News in German 7.30 Brian of Britain 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Multitrack 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 The Health of Planet Earth 10.45 Material World 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.10am Take Five 12.15 Record News 12.30 Multitrack 1.30 Global Concerns 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Meridian 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 5.00 Mike Read 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susanah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto, Victor Herbert (Cello Concerto No 2 in E minor, Op 30) 3.00 Nick Sallay 6.00 News 6.30 Sonata, Hummel (Grazzi) Sonata for Mandolin and Fortepiano) 7.00 Celebrity Choice (r) 8.00 Evening Concert, Rubinstein (Piano Concerto No 4 in D minor, Op 70) Microscopy (Pictures as an Exhibition) Debussy (Clair de Lune from Suite Bergamasque) Saint-Saëns (The Swan from the Carnival of the Animals) 10.00am Michael Magpan 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00am Jenny Clark

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, Weber (Symphony No 1 in C) Fauré (Piano Quartet in C minor, Op 15, Dances) Ireland (Three Pastels) Bruch (Swedish Dances, Op 83, Set 1) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Cairns Young Includes Wallace (The Passing of Beatrice), Giordano (Come un bel di), Maggiori, Lisloff (Concerto Symphonique), Scherz, Strauss (Horn Concerto No 2) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Bedřich Smetana (Circles of London) 1.00pm News: BBC Lunchtime Concert, includes Lassus (Musica Dei Donum Optimi and Ad in Lovens), Barro (Circles of London) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Andrew Davis, with Peter Donohoe, piano, Goethoven (Ballet music: Prometheus); Bartok (Piano Concerto No 3); 3.40 Three Score Years and Ten 3.45 Voices (r)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Changing Trains, Steven Norris, MP, former Transport Minister, reads his memoirs (1/5) 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with Melvyn Bragg 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.00 News: Battling with the Past (FM), See Choice 10.30 Women's Hour: 50th Anniversary Week 11.30 Money Box Live 0171-580 4444 12.00 News, You and Yours 12.25pm The Labour Exchange 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Wasted Years, by John Harvey (1/2) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Lynne Walker reviews The Watch of Eyre, the new Margaret Drabble novel 4.15 Shipping Forecast 4.45 Short Story: My Father, by Damon Runyon 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 News Quiz, Regulars include: Times columnist Alan Coren (r) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Food Programme (r) 7.45 The Monday Play: The Art of Stilling, by Clara McIntyre 9.15 The Price of Survival, See Choice 9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: I'm Here I Think, Where Are You? The actor Timothy West reads letters written to his wife Prunella Scales (1/5) (r) 11.00 Chain Reaction 11.40 Reading Aloud (r) 12.00 News, incl 12.27am approx. Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Nico — Songs They Never Play on the Radio (5/8) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 82.4-84.6. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 683, 808. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

A credit to her accountants

PETER SMITH, chairman of Coopers & Lybrand, was still in his nappies when Dilys Morgan was taken on as a secretary at the accountancy firm in 1946. Fifty years after walking into the firm's Swansea office, 67-year-old Dilys is still there.

It was Graeme Metcalf, 86, a manager who had recently returned from Burma, who gave the fresh-faced 17-year-old her first job. Office life was a little different back then, says Dilys, who still works on the reception desk. "We made the tea by boiling a kettle on a coal fire and all our work was done on manual typewriters. There were no photocopyers: we had to use carbon paper." And who says accountants are boring? Col-

leagues past and present turned up to celebrate Dilys's half century with the firm.

Pleasing Pikey

BROADGATE CIRCLE was alive to the victory cry of an equities broker from Cantors last week, after the big noise came good on the scratch cards at Corney & Barrow. Simon Pearce, better known as Pikey, celebrated like only brokers can when it was announced that he had won an all-expenses-paid trip to Japan for a week, with a visit to the Kirin Brewery throws

in. Having spent only £96.50, Pikey was over the moon. But the wassailing went on so late that he had to put a call into the wine bar the next morning, to remind himself what had happened. Yes, Simon, you really are a winner.

Winning formula

THE Leading Edge, the hi-tech gift store, has launched a tribute fountain pen to mark the death of Ayrton Senna two years ago. The fountain pen that comes in solid silver with a tyre-tread design is set to send profits racing: each pen

costs £1250. There are, however, only 1,960 of these pens to mark the year that Senna was born. Only 161 fountain pens in 1961 gold have been made to mark the number of Formula One races he entered, and only 41 roller-ball pens in 1961 gold to mark his Formula One victories.

HANGOVERS and no central heating are not the only disadvantages of student life, according to the Card Protection Plan, which has compiled a list of the universities most at risk for having plastic cards stolen. Newcastle

comes in at number one, followed by Durham and Loughborough, with Oxford in fifth place. Students are most likely to have cards stolen in a bar, from home, or in a restaurant. About 5,000 cards will go missing from students this term alone.

Falling short

A HIGH-FLIER at Coopers & Lybrand has failed to break the world record he was chasing. John Fisher, a senior partner, took off from London in a 50-year-old Tiger Moth at the start of September, with the aim of

covering 12,000 miles in 30 days. Peter Smith, chairman, turned up to see him off in his own vintage plane, but the news is that Fisher landed in Darwin last Friday, he missed his target by four days and the world record by two days. Fisher blames the bad weather in Europe.

THE City Diary is awash with entries for the competition to rename Mr Garraway's the Gresham Street watering hole owned by Philip and Sarah Iles that has been moved out of its premises by Banca Commerciale Italiana. The British Iles, Garryholme, Mr G's Iles, and Island Home are among the more intriguing suggestions. But nothing that Mr Iles would part with his port and champagne for.

MORAG PRESTON

THE TIMES CITY DIARY



NESCAFÉ
GOLD BLEND
PART
VII
TONIGHT
19.45 ITV

Will she say yes?

PART I
PART II
PART III
PART IV
PART V
PART VI

Funny, political and fictional, of course

If they gave out Oscars for creative scheduling, the timing of *Crossing the Floor* (BBC2, Saturday) would take a lot of beating. Placing it in the middle of party conference season was delicious, wicked and very, very funny. So what if it was a slap in the middle of the Neil Hamilton affair was placing it wicked and very, very lucky. Guy Jenkin, the writer and director, rode his good fortune like Frankie Dettori... or Frankie Denzel/Labour for that matter.

A sequel to Jenkin's first stab at dramatised political satire, *A Very Open Prison*, this was one of those rare bores in which the original, the career of Home Secretary David Hadden (Tom Wilkinson) had moved on, but not a lot. The position of the Conservative government led by a Prime Minister (James Fleet) obsessed by his own niceness had also advanced. Its majority was down to

one, its day-to-day survival was dependent on the support of the Ulster Unionists and its chances of winning the next election were decidedly slim. Really, where does Jenkin get his ideas from?

No prizes then for guessing the state of Her Majesty's Opposition. Tom Peel (Neil Pearson), its inevitably youthful leader, was well groomed, well coached by his chemist, Dr. Clive Colville (Douglas Henshall), and well practised in the art of slipping in a sound-bite at every opportunity. "As long as we have hope..."

Given the title, the basic plot did not require a lot of guesswork. Rightly convinced that his prospects within his own party were pretty much non-existent, Hanratty determined that joining New Labour was the only way of ensuring a future for himself. His defection would prompt a vote of confidence and an election... but only if Peel guaranteed him a

senior position in Cabinet. You can probably fill in the gaps yourself — ped, blackmail, betrayal — the usual stuff.

But what you couldn't do is recreate the exquisite comic detail in Jenkin's script (I particularly liked Andy Hamilton as the ruthless tabloid editor who spends his nights dancing in gay night-clubs) or the performances turned in by a fashionable but convincing cast.

As Hanratty, Wilkinson enjoys an unfair advantage in bearing an ever more uncanny resemblance to the former transport minister, Steve Norris. Diana Kent was wonderful as the mad, bad and dangerous to top-up wife, who Hanratty was in the caddish process of trading in for a younger model (Helen Bakendale). Among the politicians, Clive Russell was thoroughly engaging in the John Prescott role ("Sorry," apologised his boss, "he's been

unbearably proletarian ever since you called him a Champagne socialist"; Henshall shamed to convincing effect as Peter Mandelson's alter ego and Fleet was simply wonderful as the Prime Minister. "I'm not just nice, I can be witty as well," Oh yes.

For Pearson, it was a busy weekend. As well as *Crossing the Floor*, he also popped up in the interminable *Rhodes* (BBC1) last

night playing Dr Jameson. For the last couple of weeks, Pearson has had little else to do but lean against a window sill and practise his Scottish accent. Last night, however, was Jameson's big break. Ross Rhodes (an understandingly unhappy looking Martin Shaw) told him he could be the first governor of Rhodesia... on condition he first turned the King of Matabeleland into a morphine addict. Given that nobody had done anything pleasant in this series for at least three hours, it came as no surprise that Jameson was happy to oblige.

Personally, I'm past caring. With four episodes still to come, the ponderous retelling of the life of this scheming, power-mad racist is already beginning to blur into an endless succession of river crossings and ludicrous accents. From the Russian, Russian, Ken's Jewish Cockney and Pearson's Scots — it's as if there is some

grand conspiracy to make good actors look very silly.

On a brighter note, however, Channel 4's Friday night of imported delights continues to take on anything that BBC2 cares to throw at it. This weekend, a decidedly weary looking *Have I Got News For You* (BBC2) staggered back to do battle with the superlative *Fraser* (Channel 4) and — unless you had spent the entire evening in the pub — comprehensively. A Jackluster Paul Merton was no match for Niles (David Hyde Pierce) and Daphne (Jane Leeves), whose complex relationship (only Niles believes there is one) was finally sealed with a kiss — albeit a misunderstood one. Talking of kisses, I do hope Kate, Fraser's workplace *coup de foudre* is due to return. The "bring back *Dirty Girl*" campaign starts here.

● Lynne Truss appears tomorrow



Matthew Bond

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (89020)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News** (CeeFax) (31991)
- 9.00am Breakfast News Extra** (CeeFax) (564368)
- 9.20am Sky Challenge** (s) (2606303) 9.45 Kilroy (s) (263484) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (17736)
- 11.00am News and weather** (CeeFax) (6010303)
- 11.05am Perry Mason** Includes news at 12.00 (r) (CeeFax) (64963194) 12.40pm Even More of Glynis Christian's Entertaining Microseries (892784)
- 1.00am News and weather** (CeeFax) (41378) 1.30am Regional News (5749007)
- 1.40am Neighbours** (CeeFax) (s) (44529129) 2.00am Call My Bluff (s) (7151) 2.30am Who'll Do the Pudding? (s) (571) 2.30am Turnabout (s) (2216) 3.30am The Busy World of Richard Scarry (s) (7482620)
- 3.55am Bodger and Badger** (s) (886945) 4.10am Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (CeeFax) (s) (616007) 4.45am The Breakfast Breakers (CeeFax) (s) (781200) 5.00am Newsround (CeeFax) (2506303) 5.10am Blue Peter (CeeFax) (s) (653907)
- 5.35am Neighbours** (r) (CeeFax) (s) (775945)
- 6.00am News and weather** (CeeFax) (200)
- 6.30am Regional news magazines** (552)
- 7.00am Telly Addicts** (CeeFax) (1397)
- 7.30am Mashedin**. The last semi-final of the 1996 championship from the Opera House, Jersey (CeeFax) (s) (736)
- 8.00am EastEnders**. Grant and Tiffany have something to celebrate — but will Peggy tell him joining in? (CeeFax) (s) (3945)
- 8.30am X Cars**. A police helicopter's thermal imaging camera follows a criminal who thinks his escape is hidden by darkness, and a tracking device pinpoints the location of a stolen car to within a few feet last in the series (CeeFax) (s) (8552)
- 9.00am News, Regional News and weather** (CeeFax) (8642)
- 9.30am Panorama: The Billion Dollar Man**. A look at the political impact of Sir James Goldsmith, self-appointed parliamentary candidate for Putney and leader of the Referendum Party (CeeFax) (172129)
- 10.10am The Nation's Favourite Poems** (309465)
- 10.15am Chicago Hope**. Aron has to perform a dangerous heart transplant operation on a bigoted white teenager. When he tells the recipient where the organ came from, he refuses the operation (CeeFax) (s) (89262)
- 11.00am Film 96 with Barry Norman**. Includes reviews of *Courage Under Fire*, a drama set during the Gulf War, with Denzel Washington and Meg Ryan; *Lone Star*, a film by John Sayles with Matthew McConaughey, Kris Kristofferson and Francis McDormand; Jack, with Robin Williams as a child-like character; and *The Nutty Professor*, Eddie Murphy's latest vehicle (CeeFax) (s) (8007)
- 11.30am FILM: Made in Heaven** (1987). An odd and satirical comedy, with a fantastic comic turn by cult director Alan Rudolph. A young man dies and goes to heaven, where he falls for an as-yet-unborn beauty. With Timothy Hutton and Kelly McGillis (CeeFax) (339303)
- 1.10am-1.15am Weather** (2013601)

- 6.00am Open University: Rocky Shores** (7567552) 6.25am The Big Picture (7565987) 6.50am Open Advice: Science Skills (5444484) 7.15am See Her Breakfast News (6304552) 7.30am Alvin and the Chipmunks (4771533) 7.55am Peter (8952910) 8.20am King Greenfingers (7770818) 8.25am King Aesop (2418378) 8.35am Lancelotti (8297484) 9.00am TV6 (19194) 9.30am Cosmo and Dibs in Punjab (1963262)
- 9.40am Megamaths** (5247674) 10.00am Playdays (25842) 10.30am Hotch Potch House (3451194) 10.50am Look and Read (3454858) 11.10am Zig Zag (9785200)
- 11.30am Ghostwriter** (9397) 12.00am GNVQ — the Great New Victory Quest (35718) 12.30pm Working Lunch (30129) 1.00am History File (17414397) 1.20am Spanish Globo (96934484) 1.25am Landmarks (17493804) 1.45am Storytime (57409484) 2.00am King Greenfingers (81974194) 2.05am Tales of Aesop (81974194) 2.10am The Champions (4274945) 3.00am News (5520378)
- 3.05am The Natural World** (4867842) 3.55am News (8480268) 4.00am Today's Day Star (485) 4.30am Ready, Steady, Cook (6495) 5.00am Easter. A discussion on ealously (5303) 5.30am Going, Going, Gone (129)
- 6.00am The Munsters** (r) (732303)
- 6.25am UFO** (CeeFax) (196303)
- 7.15am As Seen on TV**. The first of ten programmes showing films from the award-winning children's camcorder show (s) (133823)
- 7.30am Top Gear Motorsport**. Report on the battle between McLaren and Porsche at Brands Hatch (CeeFax) (s) (9639)
- 8.05am People's Century**. Witnesses of the first atomic bomb tests, scientists who built the Soviet bomb and survivors of Hiroshima and Chernobyl offer their views on the nuclear age (r) (CeeFax) (s) (468200)
- 9.00am Pioneers: The Good Doctor** (CeeFax) (s) (8804)
- 9.30am Sykes** (r) (CeeFax) (47465)

Here's One I Made Earlier
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Daytime television is not exactly starved of cookery programmes so the reasoning behind this new daily series must be that viewers' appetites are still not sated. The format is simple and free of gimmicks. Each show features a three-course meal cooked by a regular team of chefs which includes Mark Wogan, son of Terry. The emphasis is on fresh ingredients and an inventive approach. A useful innovation is that each dish is costed and given a calorie count. The studio audience is invited to taste the food and give its verdict, but this is not a competition and the enthusiasm for the show is palpably unanimous. On the menu today are pan-fried salmon with prawns and avocado, boned leg of lamb with parsnip purée and a chocolate meringue so rich that it sets off the show's chortle, sounded by a blue siren.

Pioneers: The Good Doctor
BBC2, 9.00pm

In these market-driven times, Dr Julian Tudor Hart sounds like a voice from the distant past. Not only is he a socialist, which is rare enough these days, but he is passionately opposed to turning healthcare into a commodity. He was a medical student when the National Health Service was set up and was fired by its ideals. As a doctor he left his comfortable middle-class background to work among the poor, first in the East End of London and later in a mining village in South Wales. He did not just care for his patients but used his practice to carry out valuable research into heart disease and cancer. Now retired, Dr Hart revisits the valley where he is remembered with affection. He insists that health is better provided through co-operation than competition.

Cutting Edge: Gaza's Coming Home
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Contrary to what you may have read or heard, this is a largely unremarkable film about Paul Gascoigne's 1995-96 season with Glasgow Rangers. Yes, there are admissions of drinking bouts, including the one that caused him to miss the birth of his son. But the programme imbeds the team responsible for a more incisive portrait of Graham Taylor (he is not unsympathetic to Gascoigne) and reinforces the familiar image of a rare talent and volatile temperament. Both threads run through the season as bookends and goals intersperse in what seem like roughly equal numbers. Sympathy for Gascoigne's loneliness and depression during his first months in Scotland may be offset by details of the enormous sums footballers earn. Even for a minor match in Cyprus the win bonus is £12,500 a player.

Wilderness
ITV, 9.00pm

Whether *Wilderness* is an original and unending thriller or a piece of pseudo-psychological hokum is a good question which cannot fairly be answered until after next week's concluding episode. But the chances are that those already intrigued are likely to see the show through to the end. The story of a young librarian (Amanda Corns) who turns into a wolf has an irresistible fascination. Apparently killed once in her lupine guise and shows every sign of doing so again. Meanwhile, her shrink (Michael Kitchen) is getting just as doty as she is, though an obsession about cleanliness is not necessarily homicidal. Gemma Jones joins the cast tonight, playing an expert in wolf behaviour. But if you see one brief appearance, she is not heard of again. This is a plot that loves to tantalise.

Joe McGann as Charlie (8.30pm)

8.30am The Upper Hand. When Charlie meets an old girlfriend, his patience is put to the test by her husband, who is desperate to prove his superiority. With Joe McGann (CeeFax) (s) (4620)

9.00am Wilderness. When a badly injured body is discovered, Alice believes that her "wolf" may be responsible (CeeFax) (s) (6129)

10.00am News (Teletext) and weather (27113)

10.30am Regional News (Teletext) (29025)

10.40am FILM: Murder Men (1979/2010) 9.45am Richard Gere, Susan Blakeley and Cliff Gorman. When a detective's former partner is murdered, he attempts to find the killer. Directed by Jud Taylor (25747129)

12.30am Bushell on the Box (s) (65934)

1.00am Customs Classified (683224)

1.50am Jones and Jerry (8303224)

2.15am FILM: Beautiful But Dangerous (1952) starring Jean Simmons, Robert Mitchum, Arthur Hunnicutt, Edgar Buchanan, Wallace Ford and Raymond Walburn. A patently comedy about a beautiful heiress returning to her home town to play Lady Bountiful to her benefactors. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (8314146)

4.10am Coach (s) (8998311)

4.35am The Time...the Place (r) (s) (44729308)

5.00am The Entertainers (r) (95750)

5.30am Morning News (20359)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25pm Our House (3232939)
2.50-3.20 Look and Cook (938668)
6.25am Wales Tonight (898804)
7.00-7.30am News (CeeFax) (4465)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Coronation Street (3232939)
1.25-1.55 Quisine (3391769)
1.55 Home and Away (14875691)
2.25 The Body — a User's Guide (2783484)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (8277282)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8333484)
6.00am Westcountry Live (35674)
7.00-7.30am Bruce's Price Is Right (8465)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (3232939)
1.25 Quisine (3391769)
1.55 A Country Practice (14875691)
2.20 Blue Healers (7544842)
3.05-3.20 A World of Wonder (2215484)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8333484)
6.25am Central News and Weather (898804)
7.00-7.30am Bruce's Price Is Right (8465)
12.30am Nationwide Football League Extra (5458866)

1.10am Crime Hour (5543576)
2.15 Jones and Jerry (427866)
2.35am FILM: Man from Tangier (5109779)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Quisine (3232939)
1.25 Home and Away (3393178)
1.55 A Country Practice (14875691)
2.25-3.20 Blue Healers (4157378)
5.10 Home and Away (8333484)
6.00am Meridian Tonight (668)
6.30 Spirit of the South: down the Meridian Line (820)

7.00-7.30am Bruce's Price Is Right (8465)
10.30am Meridian News and Weather (847397)
10.45am The Pier (738804)
11.15am Max Monroe: Loose Cannon (841533)
12.15am Sound Bites (5594427)

Starts: 6.35am Hammerman (8221587) 7.00am The Big Breakfast (37129) 9.00am Here's One I Made Earlier (84002) 9.30am Vagabond: Geography Junction (1972910) 9.45am Seng-Di-Fang (1977465) 10.00am Fenestr — a Technology (4967303) 10.15am Learn Sign Language (5918533) 10.20am Place and People (4955991) 10.40am The English Programme (8190113) 11.05am Encyclopaedia Galactica (8190113) 11.15am The Mix (8737129) 11.30am Rat-A-Tat-Tat (1027674) 11.45am Junior Technology (1022129) 12.00am Right to Reply (24026) 12.30pm Backstage (52367) 1.00am Slot Meltdown: Cat's Paws (30216) 1.30am The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (75007) 3.30am The Living Sex (249) 4.00am Fifteen to One (535) 4.30am Garden Doctors (945) 5.00am Pump: Round a Round (5834668) 5.15am Pump: Friel (2405620) 5.30am Countdown (397) 6.05am Heno (41007) 6.35am Jacpot (996574) 7.00am Pabst V Cwm (841939) 7.25am Taro Naw (109842) 8.00am Er Mwyn Tad (3755) 8.30am Newyddion (2252) 9.00am Fraser (8200) 9.30am Friends (8253) 10.00am Sports (7858) 10.30am The American Football Big Match (267755) 12.00am Potpourri (785254) 12.50-1.20am The Lovers (8647427) 4.00am Vagabond (847555)

6.35am Hammerman (r) (8221587)

7.00am The Big Breakfast (37129)

9.00am CHOICE. Here's One I Made Earlier. Top chef prepares ambitious three-course meals using high street ingredients (84002)

9.30am Schools: Geography Junction (7-11) 9.45am Book Box (9-11) 10.00am Stage Two Science (7-11) 10.15am Learn Sign Language (7-11) 10.20am Place and People (14-17) 10.40am The English Programme (14-18) 11.05am Encyclopaedia Galactica (11-16) 11.15am The Mix (9-11) 11.30am Rat-A-Tat-Tat (4-6) 11.45am Junior Technology (7-11) (559533)

12.00am Right to Reply (r) (Teletext) (s) (24026)

12.30pm Backstage (Teletext) (s) (52367)

1.00am Sesame Street (8147587)

1.55am Frislan Dreams (44437194)

2.15am FILM: Ceiling Zero (b/w, 1935) starring James Cagney. Drama about a daredevil pilot who causes the death of another flyer through irresponsibility. Directed by Howard Hawks (770216)

4.00am Fifteen to One (Teletext) (s) (533) 4.30am Countdown: Championship of Champions (945) 5.00am The Mornal Williams Show (Teletext) (s) (2908587) 5.45am Travelog Treks (127939)

6.00am The Cooby Show (910)

6.30am Hollyhocks (s) (Teletext) (262)

7.00am Channel 4 News (Teletext) (8587)

8.00am Little Killers: The Handsome Killers. The lifestyle of the weasel and the stoat, presented by Maurice Tibbles (6/6) (r) (Teletext) (3755)

8.30am Wild at Heart. Suzanne Chipperfield turned her back on her circus heritage at 18 to become a hairdresser. Now, at 24, she is back — learning the art of hairdressing from her mother Mary (r) (Teletext) (s) (2262)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Put in the Video PlusCode (or Video PlusCode) to record. VideoPlus+ (TM), PlusCode (TM) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday SKY 1

7.00am Under (84007) 8.00am Press Your 3 (51255) 8.30am Jenny Jones (89787) 9.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 9.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 10.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 10.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 11.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 11.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 12.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 12.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 1.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 1.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 1.50am The 11th Hour (89787) 2.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 2.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 3.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 3.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 4.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 4.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 5.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 5.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 6.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 6.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 7.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 7.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 8.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 8.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 9.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 9.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 10.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 10.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 11.00am The 11th Hour (89787) 11.30am The 11th Hour (89787) 12.00am The 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SHOP TALK 48

Mercury to sell phones in supermarkets

BUSINESS

HALF-TIME 47

United's scores better on the field than off



BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

MONDAY OCTOBER 7 1996

Petrol giants exploit surge in price of crude to boost margins

By CARL MORTSHED

OIL COMPANIES are using the surge in the price of crude oil to boost their margins at the petrol pump, where prices have risen about 10 per cent since July. But weakness in the spot price of gasoline has allowed the oil majors and their supermarket rivals to claw back some of the profit lost in the petrol price war.

Faced with big losses from forecourt activities, the major oil companies and

their supermarket rivals have been taking advantage of a worldwide surge in oil prices by raising the price of unleaded and four-star petrol. According to statistics from Opal, the oil price researcher, the price of unleaded petrol has risen on average about 5p per litre across the country since a low point of 54p per litre in July.

The petrol retailers have attempted to put through four increases in the past three months, a drive to recover profit-

ability that has coincided neatly with the crisis in Iraq and a dramatic surge in world crude oil markets. But while the price of Brent crude has risen almost 25 per cent since mid-July, petrol retailers have not suffered a similar increase in the wholesale price of unleaded gasoline, the most widely sold product at the forecourt. Jeremy Hudson, oil analyst at Salomon Bros, explained that demand for the product is relatively slack in Europe. "Gasoline is a commodity where inven-

ories are not a problem. There is a small oversupply of gasoline manufacturing."

For the petrol retailer, the gross profit margin — the difference between the refinery price and pre-tax price at the pump — has risen from a low point of less than 1p per litre in May to 6p at the end of September. That compares with average margins in 1994 of 6.8p, according to Opal. Those margins slipped to 5.5p last year, when Esso began retailing to the price challenge from the supermarkets.

The launch of Esso's Pricewatch campaign in January caused average margins to slide quickly, from 4.5p per litre to 1p or less in May, a level at which the oil and supermarket companies will have suffered severe losses. In August, BP reported a loss of some £50 million from the margin squeeze.

Peter Regnier of Opal reckons that the retailers need margins of between 6p and 7p per litre to cover their costs and to make a sensible profit, although grocers

who enjoy huge volumes and low overheads at their superstore sites can probably get by at 3p per litre. Ten pence of the current average price of 59p per litre goes to the refiner, 43p to the government and about 6p might go to the retailer, he said.

For the oil companies, that gross margin must carry the cost of smaller sites and their huge advertising and marketing budgets before any profit hits the bottom line.

Huge dilution for investors in Eurotunnel

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

EUROTUNNEL shareholders will learn this morning that their stake in the company is to be reduced to little more than a quarter as a result of the months of negotiations with banks over a financial restructuring.

They will also be given a new target date for the first dividends payable on their investment. Advisers to the company now think these could arrive by the year 2010.

Investors have been braced for bad news all summer as the refinancing talks dragged on. Eurotunnel owes £9 billion to a total of 225 banks around the world, a burden of debt impossible to shift in the normal course of trading.

Sir Alastair Morton and Patrick Ponsolle, in matching briefings in London and Paris, will set out the terms of the refinancing, which has been agreed with the 26 "agent banks" in the forefront of negotiations. These are thought to be the only ones that could have put in the receivers if terms had not been agreed, although there will be tough negotiations ahead with the other lenders.

But the most difficult task facing Eurotunnel will be to sell the package to its shareholders, particularly the French, who comprise a majority of the private investors and who are in militant mood. The three main planks of the restructuring are:

□ A straight debt-for-equity

swap, under which the banks will convert more than half the debt into shares. The debt will convert at a price somewhere around 130p a share, against the 113½p at which Eurotunnel shares were suspended a week ago. This will give the banks an immediate 49 per cent stake.

□ A series of share issues giving banks redeemable bonds that convert into Eurotunnel equity over the next few years. The bonds will convert at a range of prices between 150p and £2. Full conversion would leave the banks with something short of 70 per cent of the company.

□ The issue of an unusual revenue bond that pays out if certain revenue targets for the project are exceeded. The aim of this is to ensure the banks share in any subsequent outperformance of the tunnel.



Sir Alastair: to set out terms

which on Friday issued encouraging new traffic figures. The announcement will allow trading in the shares to start again on the stock market, possibly tomorrow.

The dividend promise is seen as a way of sweetening the deal for shareholders while giving the banks an interest in the future success of the project.

One source close to the negotiations said: "It was very much in Eurotunnel's shareholders' interests that the banks would become shareholders too, because then they will have a common interest in receiving a dividend earlier."

Without the refinancing, no dividends would have been possible before the year 2024 at the earliest, on one estimate. The franchise for Eurotunnel to run the tunnel stretches until 2057.

Investors will eventually be asked to vote on the refinancing once all the banks have been brought into line. However, a shareholders' meeting is not likely until early next year.

A French shareholders' group last week demanded a meeting with Eurotunnel managers before it makes a recommendation to its members. There will inevitably be opposition, but most observers believe that the deal will be voted through eventually because the prospect for private investors otherwise is even more bleak.



Heaven sent: Philip Newton, chairman of The Perfume Shop, selects some fragrances with the assistance of Sadie Brearley, store manager, during the opening of the company's new shop at the weekend. The store, at the Merry Hill shopping centre near Dudley, West Midlands, represents the thirtieth outlet opened by the specialist retailer. The Perfume Shop is an offshoot of Merchant Retail Group, which is listed on the Stock Exchange.

DMG considers legal action on audit of Young funds

By ERIC REGULY

DEUTSCHE Morgan Grenfell is thought to be considering legal action against auditors and trustees of the three European funds that were managed by Peter Young, who was sacked last month for leading the funds with unquoted securities of dubious value.

Insiders believe a decision on whether to sue KPMG, the funds' auditor, and General Accident, their former trustee, will be taken after the investigations into Mr Young's activities by DMG and the Serious Fraud Office are completed.

The role of KPMG was to audit the accounts of the three funds, while General Accident, as trustee, was to ensure that the funds complied with regulatory rules and stated investment objectives.

KPMG and General Accident, if sued, would not doubt argue that Mr Young presented them with incorrect information that, in retrospect, made their jobs impossible.

If DMG proceeds, it might sue for economic loss, seeking to recover any fines levied by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) as well as any compensation paid to investors. The total could run to hundreds of millions of pounds.

A DMG spokesman said that lawsuits against auditors or trustees were not currently on the agenda. But insiders believe that DMG would sue if it could be proven that the trustees had been in breach of their fiduciary duties.

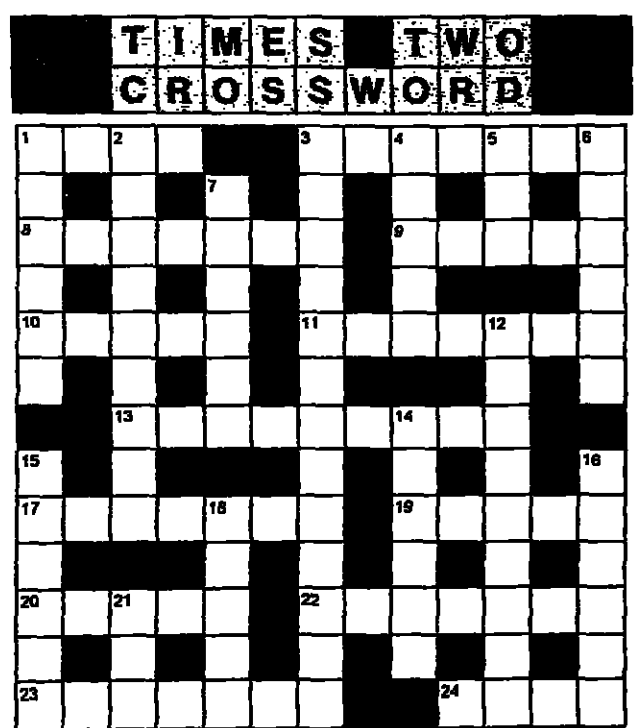
Deutsche Bank, DMG's owner, has pledged in principle to compensate investors if it is found that the value assigned to the unquoted shares inflated the funds' overall value.

In a separate development, officials from the US Securities and Exchange Commission are to come to London to assist the British inquiry into Mr Young's activities. The SEC is expected to provide information on Solv-Ex, a company that was on Mr Young's investment list.

Kingfisher may swoop on Norweb

KINGFISHER, the Woolworths retailer, is interested in acquiring the retail business of Norweb, the regional electricity company taken over by North West Water at the start of the year to create United Utilities (Martin Waller writes).

Executives from Comet, Kingfisher's electrical retail chain, have been sighted at some of the 70 out-of-town stores and 60 shops. The business is likely to be worth some £70 million. Kingfisher last night refused to comment on market rumours of a deal.



No 906

ACROSS

- 1 Leaning Tower city (4)
- 3 Excess (7)
- 8 Ruler; a moth; a penguin (7)
- 9 Winged being (5)
- 10 Fortune-telling pack (5)
- 11 Banal (7)
- 13 Carry (resisting person) (9)
- 17 Oppressive nightmare, demon (7)
- 19 Desperately want (5)
- 20 Piece of land eg in midriver (5)
- 22 Having objections (to) (7)
- 23 Healthy practices (7)
- 24 Bird's foot (4)

DOWN

- 1 Abundance (6)
- 2 Inducing drowsiness (9)
- 3 The man for all seasons (3,6,4)
- 4 Kingdom (5)
- 5 Wrap (zipper); delay (3)
- 6 Serious, formal (6)
- 7 Picturesque cave (6)
- 8 Actors' practice (9)
- 12 Cooking instructions (6)
- 15 Conclude (6)
- 16 Grassy field (6)
- 18 Go for a dip (5)
- 21 Record: piece of wood (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 905

ACROSS: 5 Insure 7 Hilt man 9 Flounder 11 Flaw 12 Roast 13 Zephyr 15 Shoddy 17 Quote 19 Hang 20 Calendar 22 Pascal 23 Demean
DOWN: 1 Piller 2 Feed 3 Charge 4 Snow 6 Show of hands 8 Mollycoddle 10 Noted 14 Pique 16 Docile 18 Errand 19 Hope 21 Lido

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Brokers launch direct insurance

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

INSURANCE brokers, who have suffered from tough competition from telephone-based dealers such as Direct Line, will retaliate tomorrow, with the launch of their own direct insurer.

The 1,300 high street brokers who are members of the Institute of Insurance Brokers, as well as other independents, will be offered the chance to buy into a £4 million insurance business and take up to 70 per cent ownership.

The new company, Broker Direct, will provide private motor insurance from next summer and household policies about six months later.

Three million shares are being offered at £1 each, but only registered brokers can take part. The aim is to allow brokers to offer direct policies shown as best or cheapest on computer screens.

Andrew Paddick, chairman of Broker Direct and head of the IIB, said: "Through cost efficiency, and being lean and mean, brokers are going to get

premiums down to compete with those offered by Direct Line and the like."

Mr Paddick said: "Virtually every insurance company is actively trying to push brokers out of the personal-lines market. When you as a consumer deal with an insurer, it is just you against the big companies. A broker is an independent adviser."

The institute estimates that the number of brokers has fallen by 15 per cent in the last three years as firms merged. Broker Direct last week entered into a joint-venture agreement with Cornhill Insurance, UK subsidiary of Allianz of Germany.

Under the terms, Trafalgar, a subsidiary of Cornhill, will provide the authorities to issue cover, service policies and settle claims. Cornhill will take a stake of between 20 and 30 per cent of Broker Direct.

Direct Line, founded in 1985, has become the UK's biggest motor insurer, with 2.2 million policyholders.

Brightreasons on the menu

BRIGHTREASONS, the restaurant group that owns the Pizzaland, Bella Pasta and Pizza Piazza chains, confirmed yesterday that it has been approached by potential buyers but would not provide details of any negotiations (Eric Reguly writes). The speculation is that Pizza Express and My Kinda Town, the quoted restaurant groups, would like to buy some or all of Brightreasons now that the company is reporting stronger profits. Brightreasons is 80 per cent owned by venture capitalists and 20 per cent by management.



IN BUSINESS TOMORROW



JANET BUSH surveys the economy as the Conservative Party conference gets under way

Revenue to announce Botnar deal

Octav Botnar, the exiled tycoon, will today see the settlement of his dispute with the Inland Revenue, which has required him to take up residence in Switzerland, beyond the range of the British tax authorities.

The deal, to be announced in open court by the Inland Revenue, requires the payment of more than £50 million in corporation tax by Nissan UK, the company built up by Mr Botnar to import the Japanese cars. The Revenue had claimed £250 million but is thought to have settled for the lower sum.

The arrangement could allow Mr Botnar, 53, to return to this country. The Revenue refused to comment except to say that, as of last night, a warrant remained outstanding for his arrest should Mr Botnar return to the UK.

Upbeat Granada

A purchase of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television by Granada Group, the leisure conglomerate that took over Forte earlier this year, is "inevitable", Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, told *The Times* — but at the right price. His company has 27 per cent of the regional broadcaster. Otherwise, Granada is taking stock after its rapid expansion, he said.

Calm after the storm, page 50

Boom time

The current mini-boom in the nation's high streets will last at least until 1999, with retail sales next year and in 1998 expected to rise 6 per cent in each year, according to Verdict, the retail consultant. However, Verdict says there is little danger of inflation rising as it did in the 1980s because fierce competition between retailers should keep the lid on price rises.

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Gloomy prognosis as Pope admitted for 'simple' surgery

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AFTER an emotional send-off by a huge crowd in St Peter's Square yesterday, the Pope entered hospital for what is ostensibly a low-risk appendix operation.

But there are fears that surgeons may find something worse, such as a cancerous tumour, and there is growing talk in the Vatican about whether the Pope might resign if he becomes incapacitated. Vatican doctors say the operation will take place today or tomorrow.

The post-Wojtyla era has already begun, said *La Repubblica*, pointing to the vacuum at the top in the Vatican since the Pope began suffering from repeated mysterious abdominal ailments at the beginning of the year.

But Vatican officials insisted the pontiff would be fit again in time for the celebrations on November 1 marking the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination. All those ordained in 1940, including five cardinals, have been invited to Rome to join in the festivities.

Medical sources said the Pope should leave the Gemelli Hospital, which has a special papal suite on the tenth floor, within a week "if all goes well". There are persistent reports, however — all denied by the Vatican — that Professor Francesco Cruciani, the senior surgeon conducting the

appendectomy, will also be conducting keyhole surgery to look for signs of a recurrence of the tumour he removed from the Pope's colon in 1992.

Officially, the Pope, 76, is suffering from "chronic inflammation of the appendix". But the Vatican only issued this diagnosis last month after the pontiff's visit to Hungary, when it became obvious that he was a sick man. It had earlier talked vaguely of "digestive fevers" and "mysterious bacteria".

The Pope, who has repeatedly said he hopes to see in the millennium, asked the well-wishers packed into St Peter's Square under sunny skies —

many of them Poles waving national flags — to "accompany me with your prayers" as he undergoes surgery for the sixth time in his papacy. "I send cordial greetings to those in hospitals and clinics, knowing I can count on their spiritual solidarity. May the caring Virgin Mary watch over all of us," he declared.

Yesterday the Pope, refusing to rest, looked wan as he presided over a three-hour ceremony beatifying 16 Catholics, among them Edmund Ignatius Rice, (1762-1844), an Irish landowner who went on to found the order of the Christian Brothers. The Pope prayed that the Irish people would put violence and conflict behind them and "build a brighter and more serene future for the younger generation", with Ireland's Christian heritage inspiring "harmony and peace between the communities of Northern Ireland".

On Saturday the Pope paid homage to Padre Pio, the revered Italian hermit who met the young Karol Wojtyla in 1947 — a year after his ordination — and predicted he would be Pope. Padre Pio, who the Pope is determined to make a saint, also foretold the attempt on the Pope's life, and is said to have predicted his papacy would last 18 years, which it already has.

MEDICAL HISTORY

May 1981: Operation after shot in abdomen by Mehmet Ali Agca in St Peter's Square.

August 1981: Further surgery after infection.

July 1992: Removal of benign tumour from colon.

November 1993: Operation on dislocated right shoulder after fall.

April 1994: Hip operation after fall in bathroom.

October 1996: Appendectomy after repeated "abdominal pains".



The Pope leaves a three-hour beatification ceremony in St Peter's Square yesterday

Cardinals jockey for power behind Vatican throne

BY RICHARD OWEN

DURING the Pope's absence, the Vatican will be in the hands of Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Secretary of State, who is, in effect, the pontiff's Prime Minister.

A report in an Italian magazine last month said the Pope had given Cardinal Sodano and Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo, the Treasurer to the Holy See, a document certifying that if he lost his mental powers they were to act as if he had resigned. The Vatican vehemently denies this. But officials agree it is normal for the Secretary of State to exercise the Pope's powers during his absence.

In 1979, when the pontiff undertook the first of many overseas trips, he handed the then Secretary of State, Cardinal Jean Villot, powers to grant indulgences and to make diocesan appointments. On the other hand, Cardinal Sodano, a lifelong Vatican diplomat who became the Secretary of State in 1990, is widely regarded as a colourless, bureaucratic figurehead.

Instead Vatican insiders say four men have moved into the vacuum: Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, or Holy Office — once the dreaded Inquisition; Cardinal Jozef Tomko, the head of Propaganda Fide; Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, the head of the Vatican Millennium Committee; and Mgr Stanislaw Dziwisz, the Pope's powerful



Ratzinger: zealous purge of liberal theologians

private secretary, Mgr Dziwisz, who controls access to the Pope, forms part of the "Polish mafia" which moved into the Vatican in 1978, but he is not a power player in the succession struggle.

The remaining three are all candidates to succeed, but perhaps the canniest temporary wielder of power is Cardinal Ratzinger. He has proved a stern weeder-out of heresy on the conservative Pope's behalf since his appointment as head of the Holy Office in 1982.

But this has also made him enemies, and although the Pope has created a college of cardinals in his own image, as every pontiff seeks to, they may elect a liberal next time. If the cardinals choose another foreign Pope, they might favour one from Latin America or Africa, with Cardinal Ratzinger settling for the role of kingmaker.

Icelanders await flood of the century

FROM HILDUR HELGA SIGURDARDOTTIR IN REYKJAVIK

ICELANDERS braced themselves yesterday for extensive flooding along the country's south coast as the volcanic eruption in the Vatnajokull glacier showed no sign of abating.

The eruption in southwest Iceland, 137 miles from the capital, Reykjavik, became visible last Monday, but Icelandic scientists had predicted it 36 hours before that. A column of ash, varying in height from 32,800ft to 10,000ft, was still pouring from a six-mile fissure in the glacier.

More than 2.5 billion cubic yards of ice is believed to have been melted. The water is working its way under the icecap, filling a huge underground lake a few miles from the eruption's source at the Grimsvotn crater.

The water level is estimated to have risen to almost a mile, a height unprecedented this century. It is only a matter of

time before the fire lifts the icecap and a glacial river bursts out. There is little human habitation in the area expected to take the main force of the flood but rescue workers are dismantling dykes to divert the waters from large bridges and power lines.

Iceland is living up to its nickname as the land of ice and fire. But initial excitement over the eruption has turned into a tense waiting game. Ragnar Stefansson, head of the geophysics department of Iceland Meteorological Institute, said that "the longer it takes to build up, the bigger the flood is likely to be".

Vatnajokull covers more than 3,200 square miles. The last big eruption was in 1983, when the ice sheet was pierced for a short time. There was no flooding then, but an eruption in 1938 at the same site as the current activity caused extensive flooding.

Lebed faces Nato charm offensive

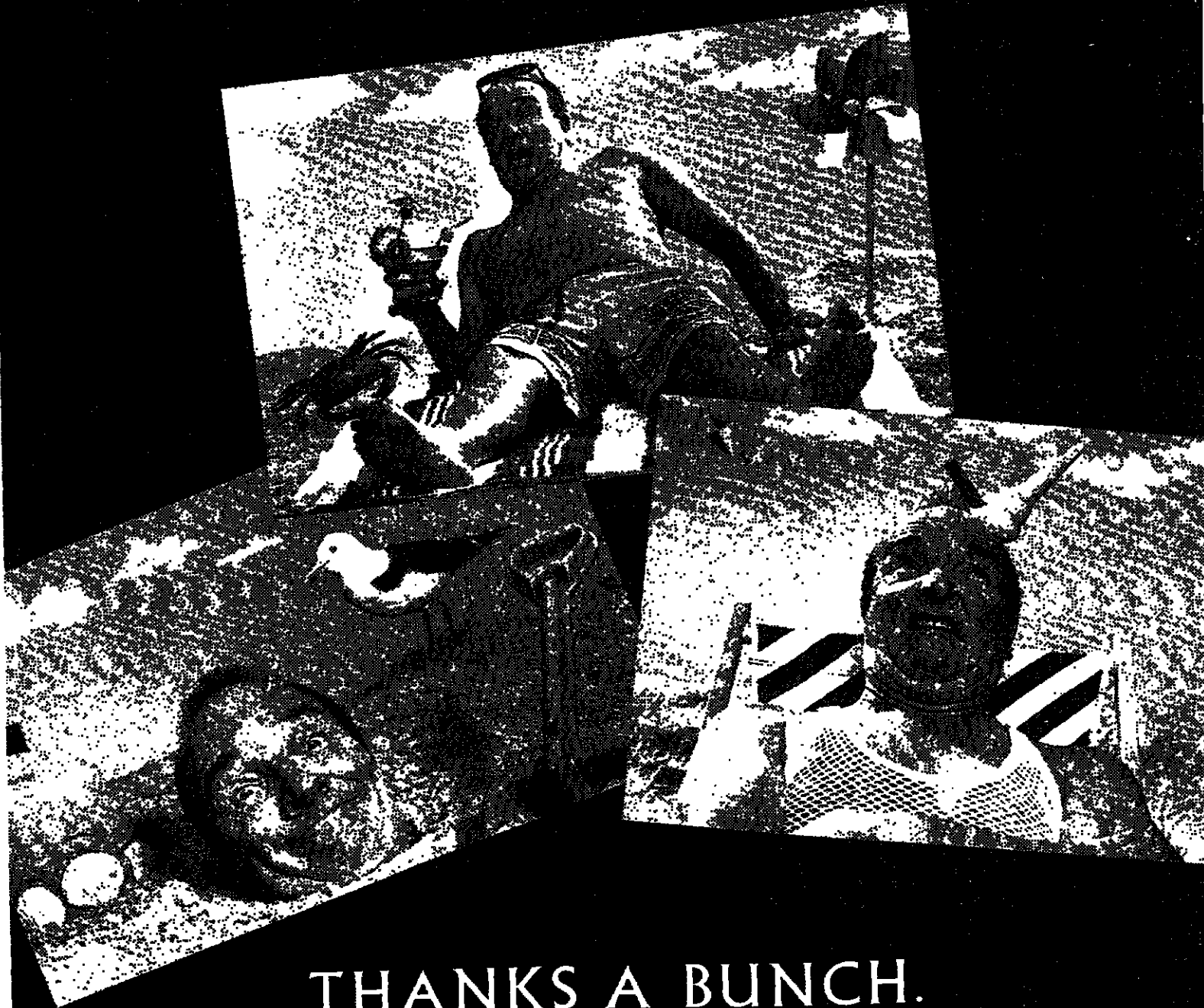
BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO launches a charm offensive today when senior officials meet General Aleksandr Lebed, Russia's security chief, who is on a two-day trip from Moscow.

General Lebed was invited to the Brussels headquarters by Javier Solana, Nato's Secretary-General. He will also visit the alliance's military headquarters at Mons. The trip is seen as a crucial opportunity for the West to convince a key Moscow figure of the alliance's benign attitude towards Russia.

The general has made belligerent remarks recently underlining his opposition to Nato's plans to expand eastwards and has given warnings of retaliation if enlargement goes ahead. Nato sources said he would be told that the alliance wanted to develop a much closer partnership with Russia.

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The making of an artist — from

Starting today: Michael Peppiatt's biography of Francis Bacon, an artist who challenged his generation

Of his childhood in rural Ireland, Francis Bacon had few happy memories. His father, Eddy, an ex-Army martinet and failed racehorse trainer, used his abundant spare time to tyrannise the family. Photographs of Eddy show a sturdy, upright man with a hooded, supercilious gaze and a "military" moustache: the only discernible similarities with his famous son are the powerful forearms, which he holds folded over his body, and the unusually large, fleshy hands.

Known and feared for his outbursts of rage, he also had a moralising, puritanical streak which, among other things, led him to ban alcohol from the house — an enforced abstinence for which his son would take spectacular revenge. On the other hand, the teetotal father gambled a great deal, particularly on the horses — which is something, as his no less censorious son remarked, that the best trainers do not do.

Because of his asthma and other recurrent ailments, Francis was considered from early on the sickly child of the Bacon family — the "weakling", as he himself put it. This did nothing to endear him to his physically robust father, who insisted on putting him astride a pony and sending him off to hunt at every opportunity.

Any prolonged contact with dogs and horses brought on an asthma attack so severe that Francis would lie in bed for days, blue in the face, struggling for each breath. It can never have occurred to Eddy, as he watched his son being given liberal amounts of morphine to ease his suffering, that Francis would turn out to be exceptionally resilient as an adult, as well as the only one of



Growing up in Ireland: Bacon's mother, Winifred, with his father, the tyrannical Captain Eddy, in 1910; young Francis with his mother in 1912 and Bacon at Cannycourt House, the family's rented home in Co Kildare



his three sons to live beyond the age of 30.

What makes Bacon's childhood exceptional, and exceptionally interesting, is the fact that we tend to see it through his eyes — in his occasional references to it, and above all through his painting. The artist's temperament was fuelled by a need for high drama and extremity to feed his painting, and it coloured everything that came within reach.

At one point or another, Bacon referred to specific incidents of cruelty that had impressed themselves on his mind. Most disturbing, because the cruelty was so specific and was suffered by Bacon personally, is the story about his father arranging to have his small son regularly horsewhipped by the grooms — a punishment which reflected the father's desire to make a

man of his sickly boy, just as he forced him to join a fox hunt in spite of the fact that horses and hounds triggered off the child's asthma. This illness undoubtedly strengthened Bacon's resolve, once he had grown up, to keep as far away as possible from any kind of animal and, with some rare exceptions, to shun the countryside entirely.

Bacon's lifelong asthma is an important key to his childhood and to his adult sensibility. For an asthmatic, the simple process of breathing is a struggle, each attack is an ordeal to be overcome, and during Bacon's childhood little existed to alleviate the protracted suffering.

Nevertheless, asthmatics generally acknowledge that their condition sharpens the will to live, making mere existence — what Bacon called "conscious life" — a pleasure in itself, since it has been so arduous to achieve. The asthmatic tends as a result to have a special fund of optimism, simply in order to surmount a new attack; and once the attack has passed, the optimism does indeed seem justified. Bacon himself referred all the time to his "optimistic nervous system" (while qualifying it atheistically as "optimism about nothing"), and this can be understood more fully in the context of his permanent struggle with asthma.



FRANCIS BACON REVEALED

If this early ordeal gives the asthmatic unusual resilience and reserves of stoicism, it also tends to form a character that appears aloof from the daily

miseries of living. A certain unfeeling superiority or ruthlessness certainly characterised much of Bacon's behaviour in later life, to the extent that many people who came into contact with him failed to see the instinctive compassion and the sometimes startling generosity.

The other, even more dominant factor in the boy's life, especially as he approached adolescence, was the growing awareness of his homosexuality. Its importance to Bacon's development, to his later life and to his vision as a painter cannot be overstated: one might reasonably say that, along with his dedicated ambition as an artist, his sexuality was the most important element in his life. Bacon would refer to himself as "completely homosexual", someone for whom no doubt or wavering had ever existed. He himself recounted one banal youthful attempt at heterosexuality — with a prostitute who apparently ate chips while her client attempted intercourse; and he is reputed to have had sex, once and unsatisfactorily, with one of his favourite female friends and models, Isabel Rawsthorne.

These, however, were the exceptions that proved the absolute homosexual rule. "From as far back as I can remember I used to trail about after the grooms at home," Bacon would say. "I just liked to be near them." That these grooms, with whom he admitted to having sex in his early teens, were also the ones who horsewhipped him is a tempting conjecture in the light of Bacon's sado-masochism and the tangibly violent sexuality that suffuses so much of his imagery. If indeed his father, to whom he was sexually drawn, ordered and witnessed the floggings carried out by the grooms, themselves a source of erotic excitement, then the complexity of emotions — of pain, thrill and humiliation — is sufficiently extreme to make any later violence, in life or on the canvas, almost too easy to explain.

Frankness about himself and his "tastes" was a constant in Bacon's conversation. But although he accepted his homosexuality fully and made no attempt to disguise it, he openly regretted it on occasion. "Being a homosexual is a defect," was the way he put it in certain moods. "It's like having a limp." It is not clear whether his initiation to sex came from the stableboys or from encounters at boarding school; but from around the age of 15, Bacon would have been more precisely aware of the nature of his sexuality than most of his contemporaries.

His early schooling was chaotic and intermittent, firstly because of his asthma and general sickness, and secondly because Francis repeatedly ran away from the schools he had been sent to. "I just couldn't seem to stay," was his disarming summary of the situation, and he seemed to imply that his parents were not much concerned whether he received



Francis at 16: relatives remarked on his effeminacy

choking fits and turned blue in the face whenever he came into contact with hounds or horses. It was worse when he began mentioning the fact that he might want to become an artist of some kind, because that, in the captain's mind, could only signify unmanly decadence and penury. Worse still were the rumours that Francis had been about to be expelled from his school, Dean Close, for "going" with other boys. Relatives had already remarked "how like a girl" Francis could look.

For fancy-dress parties in the family circle, he would appear as an Eton-cropped flapper, complete with backless dress, beads, and a cigarette holder so long it reached to the candles in the middle of the table. Dressed as a curate, his father stared uneasily and said nothing as Francis rolled his eyes, shook his earrings and made all the women laugh: he was too confused to know how to react. But finally, when Captain Bacon came across the effeminate, wayward 16-year-old trying on his mother's underwear, his self-righteous wrath knew no bounds: Francis would have to go. He had been obliged to leave school. Now he would be "expelled" from home.

Francis Bacon regularly recounted this final break with his father as if nothing could be more hilarious — a particularly

absurd chapter in what he called his "ridiculous and ghastly" life. But his father's disgust and dismissal wounded him deeply, in a way that he was never able to forget. Before his life had really begun, he had been rejected by his own kin and branded an outsider. The extreme humiliation, in someone who even as an adolescent was not unaware of his superior gifts, would find expression in an equally potent rage — which encouraged him to rebel against his father's world and cause a shock as sharp and enduring as the pain it had given him.

Determined to put as much distance between himself and his punitive father as possible, Francis made for London where he embarked on a bizarre series of brief odd jobs — many of them no doubt coming his way through the homosexual underworld. "I can't say I was what's

picked up by a man in Dover Street. He was Greek but he'd been living in London for a long time. And he was obviously a rich man.

Well, after we had been in his bedroom, he went out into the bathroom. And I started going through his pockets. He must have been watching me in the mirror, because suddenly he came out and said, 'What are you doing Francis?', and I said, 'Well you know what I'm doing'. Then he said, 'You don't have to do that. Just ask'. And he took me down to a bank and drew out one hundred pounds, which was a very large sum then, and gave it to me. It was a marvelous way to behave, and I've never forgotten it."

Passing encounters of this kind became a staple of Bacon's first stay as a young man in London. But he could not count on them to generate enough cash for a way of life that was already characterised by impetuous extravagance: while still an adolescent, he developed a taste for the most expensive restaurants and hotels.

Having learnt a certain amount about cooking from his mother, he put himself forward as a domestic servant and was taken on by a solicitor and his wife who lived in Mecklenburgh Square in Bloomsbury. Francis's duties consisted of arriving early in the morning to prepare breakfast and clean the house, then returning in the evening to cook the couple's dinner. Although he enjoyed the cooking, Francis soon got bored and handed in his notice. "I don't know why he's going," he overheard the solicitor saying to his wife, "he never does anything." Another domestic position came to a rapid end when the new employer found Francis on his evening off having dinner with a friend at the Ritz.

However chequered his attempts to supplement his weekly allowance, Francis was succeeding in his main ambition, which he called "simply to drift and follow my instinct — to drift and see". As Francis drifted through London's homosexual underworld, with its special places and its meeting places, its codes and its clubs, his father decided to make one last attempt to stop his son from going completely to the bad. Among his few friends there was a relative on his wife's side called Harcourt-Smith, renowned for his manliness, who was about to leave on a trip to Berlin. Why not entrust Francis to this man's care, Eddy Bacon reasoned. With little warning, Francis found himself plucked out of the back streets of Soho and en route with his upstanding uncle to Berlin.

His father arranged for him to be whipped regularly

called moral when I was young," Bacon said, describing his early stay in London through the autumn and winter of 1926. "Morality is a luxury that has come on me with age. I think I just did whatever I could to get by. I'd always stolen money from my father whenever I could. And when I got to London I'd often take a room and not pay the rent. And then, although my parents had always told me that I was ugly, I found that some people were attracted to me and thought that I was pretty at that age. So I decided to do everything to get people to take a fancy to me, and I didn't very much care what happened after that. I remember once, when I was broke, I got myself



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DRIFTING IN BERLIN AND PARIS

In the midst of the decadence, his talent flowered

Berlin in the waning years of the Weimar Republic presented the most extreme contrasts of wealth and poverty, high-bourgeois sophistication and *Lumpenproletariat* misery. These contrasts were to mark Francis for life. But Berlin was, above all, a place of sexual liberation and indulgence. The tough uncle with whom Francis had departed with his father's blessing turned out to be indiscriminately virile. "My father thought he would change me. But of course it changed absolutely nothing, because a bit later we were in bed together," Bacon recounted.

Unusually tolerant, not to say encouraging, towards all manner of sexual tastes, Berlin had evolved a nightlife capable of titillating the most jaded appetites and satisfying the least conventional desires. Naughty-girl routines featuring the ubiquitous Josephine Baker or homegrown striptease acts were commonplace, and these were supplemented by side-shows of nude dancing and female wrestling.

The city's real speciality was homosexual clubs and cabarets, male and female, and particularly what was most perverse and decadent. Boys parading in outrageous drag and Eton-cropped girls in white tie and monocle set the tone in the fashionable West End.

Bacon later claimed that his two months in Berlin had been a period of pure "drifting", of exploring his sexuality. But being unusually perceptive about life in general, he could not have failed to absorb the extraordinarily potent cultural atmosphere of the city.

"Don't forget that I look at everything," Bacon used to point out once he was an established artist and in the mood to tantalise critics writing about his work. "And everything I see gets ground up very fine. In the end one never knows, certainly I myself never know, what the images in my paintings are made up of."

The visually alert young man would have been conscious of the attention painters were paying to a precise rendering of reality, and he may have visited the influential "Neue Sachlichkeit" (New Objectivity) exhibition at the

Galerie Nierendorf early in 1927.

The only full-length photograph of this period of Bacon's life shows a slim youth standing by a statue in the park of Schloss Charlottenburg, on the west side of Berlin. Carefully attired in a formal suit with a neat waistcoat, and clutching a dark homburg hat and gloves in his hand, Francis looks less like the roaring boy of his own legend and much more like the gentleman's gentleman. The hair impeccably parted just to the left of centre, the high white collar and tightly knotted tie all convey an impression of respectability.

Francis's uncle had moved on some time before. "He soon got tired of me, of course, and went off with a woman," Bacon recounted in mock dis-

isation of himself as an artist.

The 17-year-old boy had already begun to visit the galleries within the first few weeks of his arrival. He appears to have conquered his shyness sufficiently to have gone to certain openings and mingled with the sophisticated Paris art world. It was at one of these that he met Yvonne Bocquentin, a pianist and connoisseur of the arts. Intrigued by Francis's curiosity and charm, Madame Bocquentin decided to take him in hand. She offered him a room in her comfortable house near Chantilly, a short train ride from Paris, where her husband managed several large estates. She also undertook to give Francis a good grounding in French and to introduce him to all the aspects of Paris she herself found fascinating.

It was the beginning of what Madame Bocquentin's daughter, Anne-Marie Crete de Chambrin, calls an *amitie amoureuse*. An instinctive sympathy and understanding grew between the elegant *femme du monde* and the diffident but clearly gifted youth. It was a mother-son relationship with the extra excitement of shared interests and the ambiguity that arose out of the pleasure they took in being constantly in each other's company. When they were not studying French (which Francis picked up with impressive speed), they would spend the day in Paris, visiting exhibitions and going to concerts or the theatre.

What is remarkable is the uncanny single-mindedness with which the intuitive but barely-educated adolescent homed in on the images that mattered most to him. If Francis had not seen Eisenstein's film *Battleship Potemkin* in Berlin, he certainly did so in Paris: in that masterpiece, it was the nurse's bloodied face and terrified scream in the Odessa Steps sequence which riveted him. Shortly after he settled in Paris, this obsession led him to find a medical book with hand-painted illustrations of diseases of the mouth.

The "beautiful colours" which it showed of the inside of the mouth fascinated him: he bought the book and later kept it to hand in his studio, referring to it constantly when



Bacon photographed by Henri Cartier-Bresson: no city could have been more seductive for the artist than Paris, and there he began working seriously

he came to paint his own versions of the human cry.

The instinctive sense of purpose led him to a crucial revelation in Paris: the exhibition of drawings by Picasso which the art dealer Paul Rosenberg put on in the summer of 1927 at his gallery. Bacon repeatedly cited the 1927 exhibition of Picasso drawings as the first definitive catalyst in his development as an artist: "They made a great impression on me, and I thought afterwards, 'well, perhaps I could draw as well'."

From this point on, however sporadically, he began to draw and make watercolours by himself, without any technical training.

When the "wild boy from Ireland" returned to London in 1929, he was set on a course that would not only scandalise conventional sexual and social morality. He had something far more subversive to do: to disrupt all notions of what art was and what it could express.

Francis Bacon: Anatomy of an Enigma, by Michael Peppiatt, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20.

TOMORROW
A life of growing scandal and heartbreak in London

Images from a medical textbook were his inspiration

may. "I didn't really know what to do, so I hung on for a while, and then, since I'd managed to keep a bit of money, I decided to go to Paris."

When Bacon arrived in the French capital, in the early summer of 1927, no city could have been more seductive. After the architectural dourness of Berlin, with its heavy 19th-century facades, the elegance and excitement of Paris left a lifelong impression on Bacon, causing him to visit the city regularly later on and to live there for a while.

If he had chosen to go to Paris, it was because he was aware, like anyone with an interest in the arts at that time, of its pre-eminence as a cultural centre and the undisputed capital of style. He was drifting, to be sure, as far as possible from the constraints of his upbringing, but he was drifting with instinctive purpose towards what he needed most: the awareness and real-

SELF-DOUBT OVER DRAWING ABILITY

IN 1991, on the last occasion I talked to Francis Bacon, he told me: "I don't think I can draw. I mean, if you asked me to draw something, I don't think I would be able to." The paintings he produced often have a pronounced linear quality, as if drawn with paint. But Bacon rarely made drawings for their own sake.

The study of a raised chair with owls, reproduced here, is close in style and subject to his paintings. But the other drawing is more surprising. He based it on a 1916 Picasso portrait of the poet Guillaume Apollinaire, whose head had been severely wounded in the First World War. Picasso drew his great friend in a highly controlled, neo-classical style. But in Bacon's version Apollinaire becomes far more agitated. Bacon reveals a vulnerable figure, who was killed by influenza when Paris was celebrating the Armistice.

RICHARD CORK



Guillaume Apollinaire, based on a Picasso portrait



This study of a chair with owls, made in a vigorous and swift manner, is close in style to the artist's paintings

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The music of a mother and baby's love



Mothers and babies seem to understand and mirror each other, and even infants as young as two months old, who cannot form words, possess a breathtaking capacity for recognising and imitating sounds and movements

Free spectacles

Scientists are studying the intimate communication between a mother and her baby, reports Anjana Ahuja

To witness a mother and baby laughing and cooing together is to peer into a secret world. They seem to understand and mirror each other, and even infants as young as two months old, who cannot form words, possess a capacity for recognising and imitating sounds and movements.

They are actually making music together. Mothers speak to their infants in short, melodic bursts, and the main features of this maternal language, called motherese, are common to mothers from all continents and cultures. By studying the musical patterns buried within, researchers at Edinburgh University are hoping to strip away some of the mystery shrouding this remarkable innate language.

The research, funded by a £59,000 grant from the Leverhulme Trust, is being led by Professor Colwyn Trevarthen, from the university's psychology department. It is possible, he believes, that the whole of human communication springs from this primitive rhythmic exchange.

When a woman talks to her baby, three musical components can be picked out. There is the metrical structure, or rhythm, which is regulated by the pattern of emphasis and stress. The melodic structure reflects changes in pitch, or frequency. Then comes the timbre, or voice quality. The Edinburgh study will focus on timbre.

The actual scientific analysis will be handled by Dr Stephen Malloch, who has just completed a doctorate at Edinburgh University in the physics of music. Part of Dr Malloch's doctoral research was to develop a computer program to study timbre, which he describes as "the colour of sound," and this program will be adapted to examine the maternal voice.

"Once you have looked at pitch, loudness and duration, timbre is all the stuff left over," Dr Malloch says. "If a violin and an oboe played the same note for the same length of time, timbre is the attribute that would allow you to recog-

nise that one is a violin and one is an oboe."

The researchers want to find out, for example, which vocal patterns will make a baby more alert. Which calm them down? Which encourage playfulness and participation in a game?

Apart from the timbre, the Edinburgh researchers will look at speech rhythms. "When a mother speaks to her infant, her speech pattern has distinctive bars, just like music," Dr Malloch says. "The mother may speak for two bars and then leave a space for one or two bars. Her baby fills the gaps. This structure provides a framework for communication."

In this verbal dance, Dr Malloch adds, mother and baby are equal partners, and this equality is crucial. Experiments show that an unresponsive mother causes the infant to withdraw. "If she talks without giving her baby the space to respond, the baby may switch off," Dr Malloch says.

The cognitive implications are immense, according to Professor Trevarthen. "It shows that babies are very aware, very competent and very complex. It is difficult to know where they get it from." There are also implications for infant developmental psychology, because the maternal voice elicits an emotional response from a baby. The baby may then learn from its mother how to respond appropriately to other adults.

As a start, Professor Trevarthen and Dr Malloch will draw on a library of audio and video tapes which show interactions between parents and their children. In order to weed out the natural rhythms that mothers may adopt in everyday speech, they are also recording talking to another adult. The growing field of music therapy will also benefit.

The study will use five age groups — up to four weeks old, two-three months, 4-5 months, 6-8 months and 10-12 months. The team's first results are expected in early 1998.

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The millipedes that hurl bristles



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

Firing line

AN ancient race of millipedes owes its survival to a highly original method of defence: it hurls small pads covered in Velcro-like bristles at its pursuers, tangling up their legs.

The discovery was made by Professor Thomas Eisner of Cornell University, who studies a genus of millipedes called *Polyxenida*, which contains about 60 species. Tiny creatures only about the size of the nail of a little finger, they pre-date insects and have survived for more than 400 million years. In

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Professor Eisner reports that the millipedes have bundles or tufts of detachable bristles, tipped with three-pronged grappling hooks and sets of interlocking barbs. When attacked by ants, they flex their rears towards the attacker, momentarily displaying their tufts, and then immediately move away. The ants stop in their tracks as they try to pull off the bristles, some becoming so entangled that they die.

The beauty of the bristles is that they are perfectly suited to immobilise the ants, which are covered in tiny hairs. They are also renewable, as the millipedes shed their skins regularly throughout life, emerging each time with a fresh set of bristles. Professor Eisner says that he believes this form of defence is completely novel: other millipedes rely on irritants and poisons to discourage attack. "There is nothing else like it in nature" he says.



POP
Every... must come the Welsh wizardry of Manic Street Preachers hits Southampton
GIG: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



OPERA
In Leeds, Josephine Barstow portrays the ill-fated Marie in Berg's masterpiece, *Wozzeck*
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



FILM
Robin Williams stars as Francis Ford Coppola turns his hand to comedy in *Jack*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS
In *Plotting Hitler's Death* Joachim Fest reinterprets the history of the German resistance
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

A little goes a long way

OF ALL the British opera companies, Scottish Opera is the one most visibly under threat from cuts in funding from a Scottish Arts Council that barely bothers to disguise its hostility to the company. Whether or not it is an astute move on the company's part to open its season with a production that both advertises its poverty and makes a virtue of it remains to be seen. "OK," you can hear the SAC saying, "if you can do a show as good as this with no money, we'll give you even less."

The budget for this Theatre Royal Idomeo is plainly minimal. It is both produced and designed by the young Scottish director David McVicar — there, a fee saved already. There is a plain wooden stage surrounded by black. No props, save for a mask of Neptune and a throne. No costume changes from operatic red for the principals, contemporary

Idomeo
Glasgow

black for the chorus. I saw one wig, maybe two.

The advantage is that the action is concentrated on the young cast, and when something does happen visually — a shower of pearls, the chorus entering with candles, the near-blinding light for the Happy End — the effect is doubled. But in principle, scenery is replaced by McVicar's eloquent chorus groupings, and by Ace McCarron's gentle lighting.

Furthermore, to have an Idomeneo (Toby Spence) who looks to be in his mid-teens and an Idomeneo (Thomas Randle) still in his thirties somehow sharpens the central conflict. Spence's incomprehension at his father's brutal rejection of him is as moving as Randle's inexpressible helplessness. With the burgeoning of young love between Spence and Lisa Milne's Ifigia suggested with equal sensitivity, the ingredients for an emotionally explosive account of the great third-act quartet are all in place. Claire Rutter's slow-fuse Elettra playing her part.

Milne is one of those sopranos who lives and breathes music, and Rutter has the technique for both a lyrical *Idol mio* and a hair-raisingly accurate Mad Scene. Spence's warmly communicative Idomeneo gave constant pleasure. Maybe Randle isn't entirely at home with the coloratura of Idomeo's *Fuor del mar*, but he is a singer who thinks, feels and believes everything he does.

RODNEY MILNES

Fruit bowl by appointment

Ros Drinkwater
on Viscount Linley's latest work, from pencils to a book

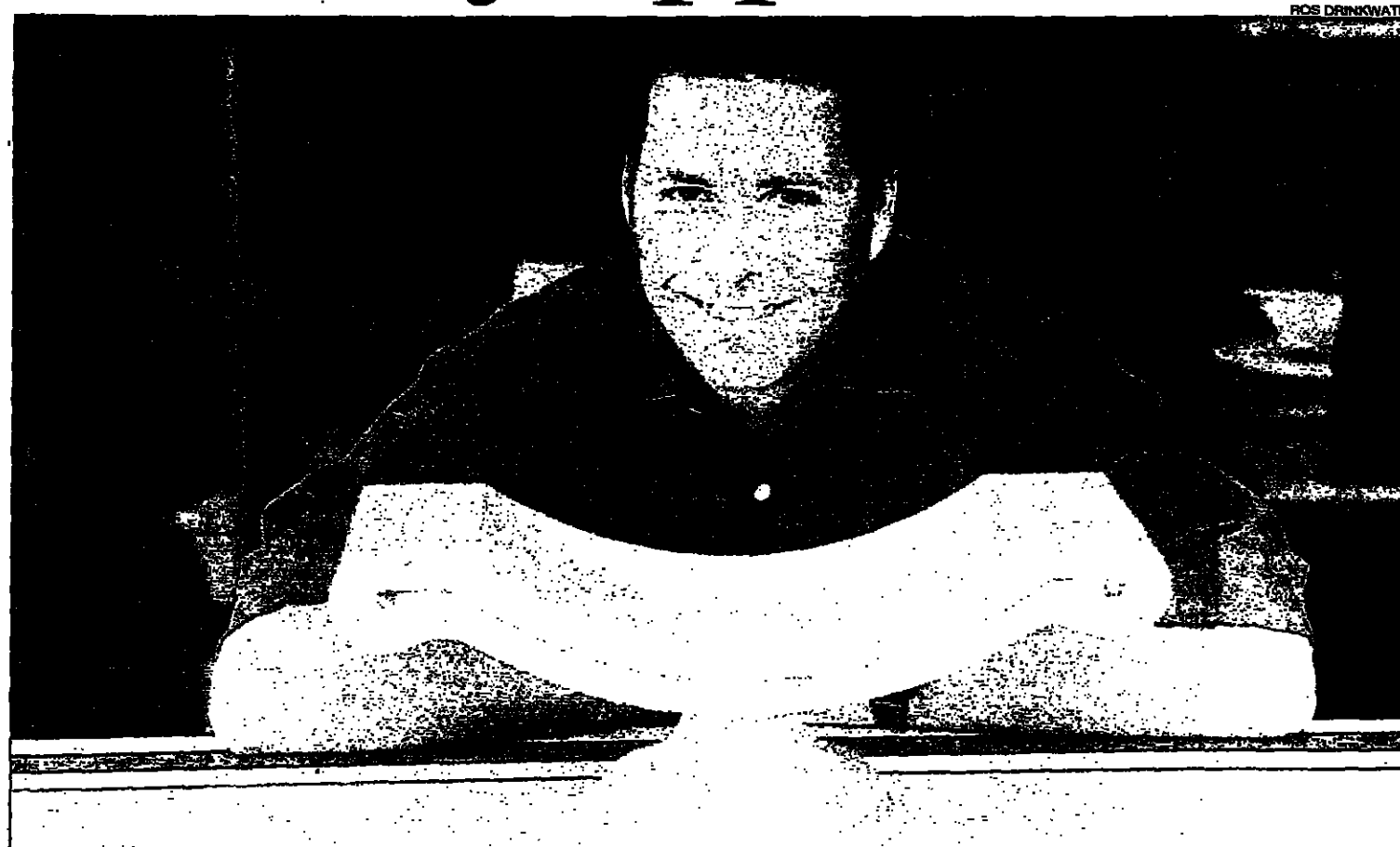
He is the man who said no to *Helio*. It gets better. When *Helio* went ahead with its story, authenticating it with posed photographs the magazine had bought in, he demanded, and got, a published apology. But then David Albert Charles Armstrong Jones, Viscount Linley, has always enjoyed bucking the trend. He is famous for being the first working royal, the least royal of the royals, and the lady he refers to as granny is the first Queen Elizabeth to gift-wrap carpentry tools.

Linley has his father's offbeat sense of humour, a relaxed, easy manner, and an infectious enthusiasm for all matters relating to wood. This month sees the publication of his latest book, *Extraordinary Furniture*, a lavishly illustrated tome with an erudite text calculated to send the reader in search of the originals.

He hopes it will be "a coffee-table book you'll keep in the car". His criteria in selecting the pieces were rarity, design, craftsmanship and, in some cases, the amazing stories behind their making. Among the furniture-maker's favourites are the Murray cabinet by John Channon, "simple and elegant and beautifully made"; a Regulator Clock by the Breguets — "it has a little oven in the bottom to make it more accurate"; and Shaker built-in storage, "fantastic, Conran 100 years early".

Linley employs 17 design and sales staff at his Pimlico headquarters, a stone's throw from the flat where his father courted his mother. By 9.30am heads are bent over drawings of what Sir Roy Strong has predicted will be the "antiques of the future".

"In the past people had things handed down to them. Today the spaces we live in are very much smaller and it's hard to find things that fit. My granny's generation would have bought a nice Georgian table, a nice Georgian linen press,



David Linley with one of his "beautiful and useful" creations, a fruit bowl: "I believe there are very few shapes that are aesthetically pleasing"

and that would have made up a bedroom, but nowadays it's probably cheaper to have something made."

When Linley set up business in 1985 handcrafted furniture was in the doldrums. "The whole idea of making things had a deeply untrendy feel to it, one was thought to be quite odd. The mass market controlled design because of money and manufacturing methods. I believe design should be the most important element. John Makepeace was the furniture-maker who brought the old skills back into the public domain, and Conran turned the corner by combining manufacture, design and price — people could buy something, take it home in the back of the car and put it together. I was one of them, and I

very much enjoyed that whole experience."

Over the years Linley's style has matured. He has lost his early enthusiasm for primary colours and outrageous shapes, and adheres to the classical golden rule of "beautiful and useful".

"Critics often complain that we don't come up with anything new, but early on I realised that I was in danger of falling prey to fashion, and began to study designs of the past. I looked for pieces that had stood the test of time and tried to incorporate some of these ideas into my own work. I believe that there are very few shapes that are aesthetically pleasing."

Being twelfth in line to the throne

has its disadvantages. "The door looks more frightening to a punter: we have to try three times as hard. I've spent 11 years explaining that it's not a hobby, that I really do have to earn my living."

What the punter is offered ranges from a solid walnut pencil at £1 (and a true collector's item: walnut is so hard the pencils broke the machine, and future stocks will be made of a less robust timber), to more ambitious items such as the Sevres cabinet planned as the firm's contribution to the millennium — price on application.

Five years ago Linley and his team thought it might be fun to make an object that would be a talking-point. A chance meeting on a train to

Shanghai led to an invitation to tour the Sevres factory in Paris. "To my surprise, the last time a Sevres plaque was put into a piece of furniture was 150 years ago." The finished piece will be a large collector's cabinet, English walnut, crafted to demonstrate every carpentry skill, with inset Sevres panels depicting English and French architecture.

Recently Linley and Serena, his wife of three years, moved into their new home, the top floor of a converted Victorian school, but don't hold your breath for a magazine spread. "The furniture's still moving about on a daily basis. We've painted it white and we'll let it evolve."

● *Extraordinary Furniture* is published by Mitchell Beazley this month (£40)



Greig Cooke in the world premiere of Alston's *Okho*

In pursuit of purity

Richard Alston
Queen Elizabeth Hall

AFTER launching itself in the exotic grandeur of the Natural History Museum nine days ago, this year's Dance Umbrella festival has moved back into the theatre, where for the next month two dozen productions at the "cutting edge" of contemporary dance will be showcased.

Cutting edge is not a term one would apply to Richard Alston, who must surely now qualify as one of the elder statesmen of British dance. Alston choreographed his first work in 1968; in 1972 he formed his first company. Today he makes dances for his new troupe, formed in 1994 out of the ashes of what was London Contemporary Dance Theatre.

His style remains rigorously spare, allowing nothing to

interfere with his pursuit of purity. And his choice of music continues to challenge preconceived choreographic notions. Earlier this year he choreographed to Birtwistle's *Okho*, is set to Iannis Xenakis.

Okho is in two parts. The first is *Okho*, written for djembes — large African drums — which are played live on stage. The choreography is for five men, who move in surprisingly fluid phrases, given the percussive storm being generated by the musicians. Alston's writing is often placed through the rhythm, rather than on it, although

when he does tap into the beat you begin to feel the force that his choreography could have if he allowed himself a little more heart and a little less head.

The second part is set to Xenakis's companion piece *Pazapha*, whose ritualistic percussion provides the musical impetus for five women. The choreography for them is

more robust, almost Amazonian in its assertion of female strength. But no matter how fluent Alston reveals himself to be as a constructor of steps, there is the nagging sense that everything in *Okho* is imbued with an arid sameness. There may be no low points, but there are no high points either.

DEBRA CRAINE

If the Bridgewater Hall failed the first part of the test it was not for lack of effort on the part of the Hall Choir, the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus, the Chorus of the Royal Northern College of Music and the Manchester Boys' Choir. They were all heard to much better effect in the second half, which was not only brilliantly structured (thanks partly to Naganos's bold tempo choices) but also sensibly calculated and thrillingly executed.

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Matthew Parris



The apparatchiks of the leader have an unsmiling perfectionism which I find chilling

A funny thing happened to me on my way from the Winter Gardens. It was the evening after Tony Blair's speech. I had joined a friend for a drink in a seafront hotel. There we found another friend, chatting to someone I had not met. We were introduced. This was a prospective parliamentary candidate for Labour and a devout Christian socialist. A youngish chap, he seemed personable and bright.

In retrospect I should have picked up a couple of warning signs: my initial cynical banter about politics and politicians drew from him a blank look; but I brushed this aside. After chatting for a while, one of us suggested that the four of us look for some supper.

Walking up the North Promenade, we discussed Mr Blair's speech, full of grand promises and visionary language. I am chilled by this sort of thing, and the only Tory in the group, I attacked it with vigour as we walked along, offering imitations of the Labour leader's sweeping gestures and arguing (not I hope, without humour) that there was something Mosleyite about the repeated appeals to national destiny. I should have noticed that my new companion had fallen silent.

He stopped in his tracks. "I cannot stay in this company," he said. Turning round, he headed back. The three of us were stunned. One of my two friends ran off to try persuading him to rejoin us. When neither returned, I rang my friend's mobile phone and left a recorded message of apology. This was genuine: to offend someone who has done you no harm makes you feel bad; and I did feel bad. Apparently my apology was received, but I had no response.

The next day at the Winter Gardens I saw him coming down a corridor towards me. It had not struck me as unreasonable that he had not rejoined us the previous evening, but the morning after, I thought, would be a good chance to make up. I said hello. Avoiding my eyes, he half-responded, quickened his pace and walked past. That afternoon, sitting with a woman from the Stone-wall Group at a pavement table opposite the Winter Gardens and eating a sandwich, I saw him forced by the crash barriers to walk past me again. Again I said hello. This time he ignored me completely.

Well, you can't win 'em all. It takes two to make enemies and I feel towards this person not so much hostility as incredulity. Obviously it was a mistake not to notice that he felt so intensely involved with what Mr Blair's team call "The Project" — but surely not a mistake that an

apology could not redress? After all, I myself feel (personally) very friendly towards John Major, and strongly approve of him politically too — sometimes the relentless abuse directed at him can make me grit my teeth — but, good heavens, if I had stormed out of every social gathering in which people made Major jokes or performed Major imitations, I should have had very little company these past six years.

Besides, some anti-Major jokes are funny. We do still make jokes about our political leaders, don't we? Or is it, perhaps, different now, for new Labour and its supporters? Are they now bound to view their leaders as spearheading something more than a political party: a national, moral crusade?

A colleague who remembers these things tells me it is beginning to remind him of a US-inspired movement called Moral Rearmament during the Cold War. I have even wondered whether,

The young men around Tony Blair have no roots, and certainly no sense of humour

having been identified as a journalist who is decidedly not "on board", I was viewed as dangerous company in which to be seen laughing and joking over a meal, after Mr Blair's speech. Am I becoming paranoid — or are they?

At Blackpool, last week, there was something about the young men who seemed to be at the core of The Project which tugged insistently at my memory. Who did they resemble, these curiously blank-faced and unsmiling people, these pallid men with the eyes of the undead?

Yes: it was the apparatchiks of the Thatcher cult, around the mid 1980s: young men, machine men, men who had no roots in the intellectual traditions she inherited — the ideas of Keith Joseph, Peter Thorneycroft, Nick Ridley — but who instead had adopted the Thatcher Project as one might adopt a marketing strategy, a company song or a business plan. How little place in Mr Blair's new model army there seems to be for the people who challenged the Left when it actually took guts to do so — Roy Hattersley, Peter Shore, Gerald Kaufman, even Gwyneth Dunwoody. Too dishevelled, too eccentric, too damn human. New Labour's strange failure to acknowledge its antecedents, seems to me profoundly significant.

Quite separately, two friends asked me if I had seen a film called *The Stepford Wives*. By brainwashing, reprogramming and lobotomy, the men in *Stepford* produced custom-made spouses intended to approach perfection. "Such perfection," said Beatrice Webb of Oswald Mosley "argues rottenness somewhere." Get ready, then, for the *Stepford People*. I think I've just met one.

Most Tories realise the single currency would be a disaster, and John Major should accept it too

This is fraud, not democracy

I think John Major probably feels that the next election is finally slipping out of his grasp. Both in Dublin and in his interview yesterday with Sir David Frost, he appeared irritable, uncomfortable and defensive. As his greatest political skill has been to present himself as reasonable, moderate and friendly, this must be a bad sign. He is approaching what will probably be his last Conservative Party conference as Prime Minister on the defensive on two issues, both of which have plagued his administration from early years. Europe and sleaze. No wonder he is losing the calm confidence he used to possess.

I would agree with him that the Conservative Party is basically an honest party and that British political life is, by international standards, very free from corruption. However, his explanation of his own actions in the aborted *Guardian* libel case is surprising. He told David Frost that he had been responsible for supporting the amendment to the Defamation Bill, which allowed Neil Hamilton to waive his parliamentary privilege and proceed with the case, and had himself been willing to appear in the witness box, because he wanted the truth to emerge. John Major has therefore done everything in his power to encourage Neil Hamilton to sue *The Guardian*. That was a strange mistake. As it turned out, the action was disastrous for Neil Hamilton, who had to withdraw at the doors of the court, and make a contribution to the *Guardian's* Trust. It has been almost equally damaging to the Government, which faces new publicity about payments to Members just when the Conservative Party was trying to recover its morale before the election campaign. Even if Neil Hamilton and Ian Greer had pursued their action and won, the libel hearing would have lasted for weeks, with damaging allegations being made and damaging evidence being given the widest possible publi-

city. It would have been a political disaster. The Prime Minister did not have a duty to expose his Government to these risks, to the certainty of being damaged, for the satisfaction of having Mohamed Al Fayed's accusations tested in the open. It did not make political sense, and John Major is not an amateur politician.

His position on Europe remains unsatisfactory, even after Saturday's article in *The Times* and his further explanations to David Frost. In *The Times*, the Prime Minister put the issue in this way: "Whether or not to join a single currency, if one comes into being, will be one of the most important economic and political choices to face this country in decades. The plain truth is that — whether we are in or out — we have a strong interest in shaping the decisions still to be taken. We can only do that if we stay at the table." The ambiguity of this statement is immediately apparent. There is one issue in the first sentence (join or not join), and another issue in the second (stay or leave the table). John Major treats these two different propositions as though they were identical. Obviously they are not. He repeated this unfortunate ambiguity in replying to David Frost.

It is the principle of British law that no Parliament can bind its successors. It is the principle of democracy that parties should be frank about their intentions when seeking election. What John Major has been asked is that the Conservative Party should state whether it intends, if

elected, to join or not to join the European single currency in the next Parliament. A similar question is put to the Labour Party. If John Major were to state that he did not intend to join the single currency in the next Parliament, it would mean that no Conservative Government would join in the first stage. That would, in any case, be difficult, since Britain is not a member of the exchange-rate mechanism, which is one of the criteria. Such a Conservative pledge would obviously not commit a Lab-

William Rees-Mogg

our government, if elected, or the Conservatives in any subsequent Parliament. But it would tell the electorate what the Government intended to do.

This is not at all the same thing as leaving the negotiating table. Such a commitment would not even necessarily weaken our negotiating position. At present, Britain is widely seen as acting in bad faith. Most European countries think that the present Government would not in fact join the single currency but is not honest enough to admit it. So long as we are members of the European Union, we have every right to participate in the discussions about a single

currency even if Britain, like half the European nations, would not be joining in the first phase. "Leaving the negotiating table", is not what the argument is about.

In the first interview, John Major gave his full backing to Kenneth Clarke, who has made no secret of the fact that he is strongly in favour of Britain joining the single currency. Mr Major referred to the Chancellor as his "ally". An ally against whom? That too was made apparent. The Prime Minister said that he hoped his argument would convince his "colleagues". That is a word that politicians use about fellow members of the Cabinet. Mr Major was declaring that he regarded Kenneth Clarke as his "ally" against those Cabinet "colleagues" who want the Tories to state at the next election whether or not a Conservative government would join the single currency. It is hard to recall a Prime Minister making it so clear that his Cabinet is split on "one of the most important economic and political choices to face this country in decades".

Most people imagine that John Major does not believe that joining the European single currency would be in Britain's best interests, and that he has decided to keep his options open in the interests of party unity. Yet the majority of Tories now believe that joining the single currency would be a disaster for Britain because it would destroy democratic control of economic policy and would result

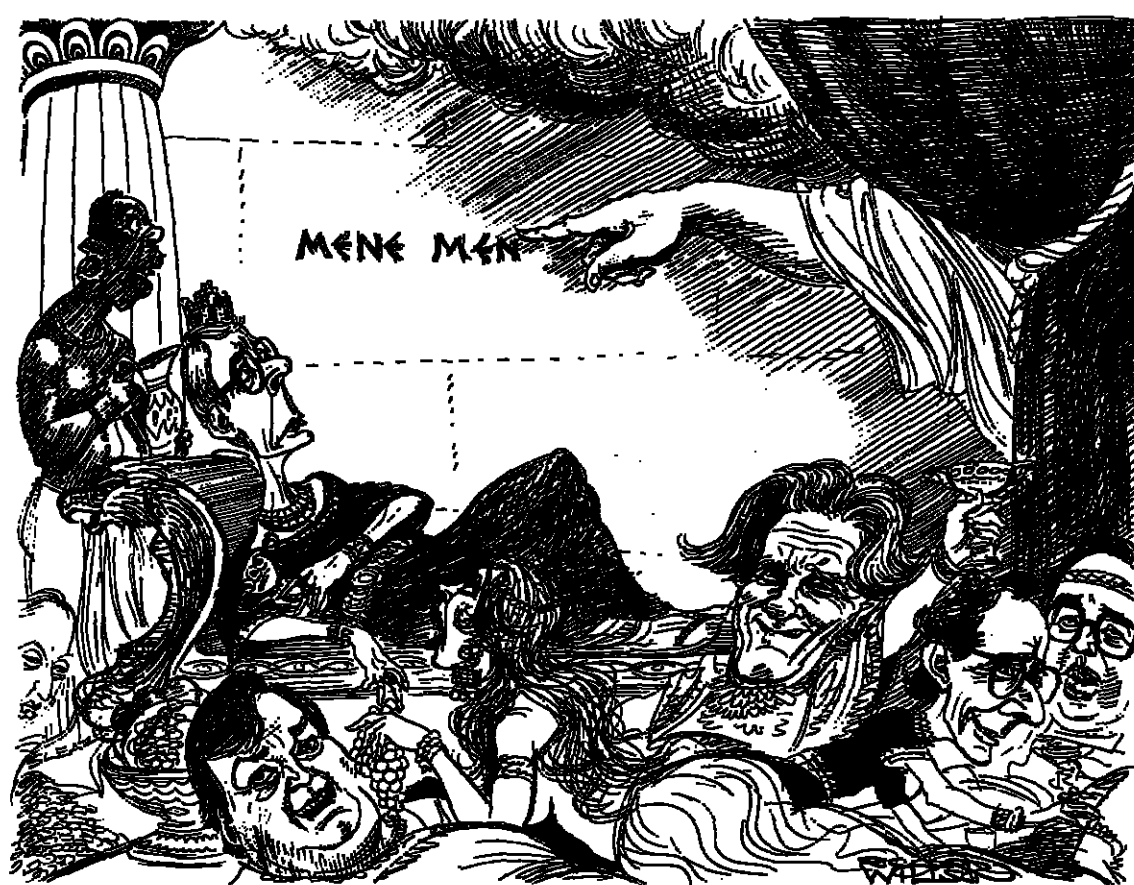
over time in the rising unemployment which has already been experienced by Germany, France, Italy and Spain. The question has, therefore, become one of trust. If John Major wins the next election, can those who are opposed to British membership of the single currency trust him not to take Britain in, despite them?

The historical record is not good. John Major can talk Euro-scepticism to the Euro-sceptics, but he was the Chancellor who took Britain into the exchange-rate mechanism; he was the Prime Minister who signed the Maastricht treaty, who pushed it through the House of Commons with the most ruthless whipping for a generation, who repeatedly refused the referendum which was allowed to Denmark, France and Ireland. Why should we believe that he is a closer Euro-sceptic, when all his actions have been Euro-federalist? He now says he would have a referendum, but who is to know how that debate might be dressed up? He says he is the "ally" and "close friend" of the Cabinet's leading advocate of the single currency, against the "colleagues" who are opposed. With this Prime Minister, you know that he must be selling the dummy to somebody — either to the anti-federalists or to his "close friend". Why should the anti-federalists believe that it is Kenneth Clarke who would eventually prove to have been deceived?

The European single currency is due to start on January 1, 1999. The most likely date for the British general election is May 1, 1997, just 19 months earlier. The decision whether to join will therefore have to be taken almost immediately after the general election. Neither major party is willing to tell the electorate whether it intends to join or not: the Labour Party does not even explicitly promise a referendum. This is not democracy; it is fraud. The national resentment against that fraud is likely to fall much more heavily on John Major than on Tony Blair.

Safety first isn't enough

Peter Riddell says the Tories no longer enjoy the benefits of doubt in the public mind



The Tories do have a case for re-election. Admittedly it is less a resounding clarion call than a plea in mitigation, of the "better the devil you know" kind, as John Major admitted yesterday. But even that may now be largely irrelevant. The public wants a change of government, of ministers as much as measures.

The Tories have lost that most vital commodity for any party in office, the public's trust. Two-thirds believe the Government is tired, stale and has run out of steam, and there is very little ministers can do about this. Almost all the suggestions likely to be made in Bournemouth this week would either split the party or destroy its remaining economic credibility. The consequent mood of fatalism — compounded by the latest very damaging "sleaze" allegations — is shared by most ministers and Tory MPs, whose main aim now is to minimise the scale of defeat and to save their own seats.

No wonder Mr Major looked tense yesterday on *Breakfast with Frost*. In face of the failings of some in his party, it is remarkable how he can still be as robust as he is. Increasingly, he looks like a figure out of classical tragedy: an underrated and well-intentioned ruler never able to master fractious and flawed colleagues, condemned to survive, but ultimately to defeat.

The frustration for the Tories is that at last they have a coherent strategy. It rests on Mr Major's "Honest John" image: a Stanley Baldwin for the 1990s, the reasonable, decent and unflashy manager

tackling the nation's affairs in a commonsense way in the interests of ordinary people like him. It is, of course, a bit rich for the Tories to claim to be the workers' party, given their tax record. But Mr Major does have a cross party appeal, while Tony Blair is seen as more remote and more middle-class. The Tories want to bring out the contrast in their conference: innovation of a question-and-answer session featuring Mr Major on Wednesday morning.

In parallel, the Tories are making a virtue out of their longevity in office, as a party willing to take tough and unpleasant decisions on the economy and on the running of public services, while being in tune with the public on Europe and taking risks on Northern Ireland. There are many flaws in this case, not least over the economic rec-

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

ord from 1987 to 1992 and the fudges over Europe, but the Tory approach is now broadly the consensus on many economic and social policies. Under the slogan "Opportunity for All", ministers will this week try to show they have fresh ideas by previewing policies on choice in schools, punishment of disruptive pupils and young offenders and extending workfare schemes for the unemployed, all of which are designed to show that they are on the side of ordinary, hard-working people.

Labour now backs many of the changes in education and health that it originally opposed, and Mr Blair urges welfare reform, although his party has voted against Peter Lilley's

attempts to control the social security budget. Labour is now really only proposing a change of emphasis, rather than a change of direction. The Tories can question how far Labour MPs go along with Blairism and point to the pressures within the Labour Party for higher spending and higher taxes. As Norman Tebbit argues in his interview with *The Times* today, the line "if you want Tory measures it is safer to vote for the Tories" does have an appeal.

The instant solutions put forward by the Tory Right are illusions. As Kenneth Clarke has rightly argued, the public would be suspicious of tax cuts which look like pre-election bribes. In any event, the strong rise in living standards and the revival in the housing market, let alone the high level of public borrowing, are

arguments for fiscal and monetary tightening. Anything more than a cosmetic cut in taxes might undermine market confidence and force an even larger rise in interest rates than may anyway be necessary. The other right-wing panacea, ruling out British membership of a single currency in the next Parliament, would split the Cabinet, as well as being against the national interest. Mr Major's move to pre-empt a conference row on the issue in his article in *The Times* on Saturday — to be reinforced by Malcolm Rifkind this week — has bought time. But I would bet that the issue will be reopened around the turn of the year. As Lord Tebbit says, both Mr Major and Mr Blair will find it hard to stick to their non-committal stances until polling day.

The Tories therefore have no choice but to maintain their current strategy. However, I doubt if Major as Baldwin will be enough, just as the "Safety First" slogan of 1929 — based on a road safety campaign of the time — was not enough to win the election then. If you go through the factors that have caused governments to lose office in the past (discussed in a new series of essays *How Governments Fall*, edited by Anthony Seldon), the Tories currently fulfil most of the top nine: a negative image of the party leader, confusion about policy direction, manifest internal disunity, organisation in disarray, depleted party finance (less than before), hostile intellectual and press climate, loss of public confidence in economic management, strength of feeling of "time for a change", and a revived and credible opposition.

The Conservatives are now suffering less from their policies than from themselves, and their disunity. The "Tory measures. Whig men" jibe against Mr Blair is precisely his appeal. What the public wants are current policies — albeit kinder, gentler versions, with more spent on public services — but managed by a different team of politicians. Mr Major argues that his policies would fail under Mr Blair, but the public is no longer listening. The Tories have lost the benefit of the public's doubt.

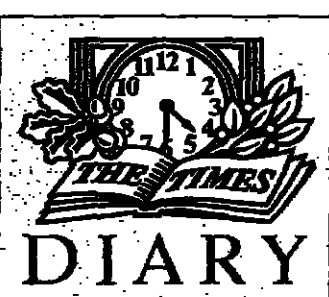
Oxford tales

CLARIDGE'S on Saturday night saw Benazir Bhutto reflecting on time's passage and her undergraduate days at Oxford. Dressed immaculately in white and green silk, a black veil covering her head (Jemima Khan take note), the Pakistani Prime Minister spoke of the stars of new Labour.

"I knew Tony Blair well at Oxford," she said sipping iced water, "but he was never political. One of the first people I met at Lady Margaret Hall was Barbara Margolis, now Barbara Roche, MP. She is much more political than she ever was." Bhutto was a famously high-octane president of the Oxford Union, so she is a fair judge in these matters.

Most intriguingly, however, she recalled Peter Mandelson, MP, Labour's top campaign nut and a man who inspires love and hate in equal measure. "I have known Peter ever since we worked at the UN together." With a sly look at her select audience of journalists, she added: "I hear you all like him very much over here."

Though Mandelson is now the very picture of snakehipped, fresh-



ly douched elegance, Mrs Bhutto has other memories of him. "Oh he was so different then." When he still had his moustache? "No, no, he had long hair and a thick, thick beard."

Any pictures of Mandelson in his ursine period would be much appreciated.

● Tweed-clad for winter, Malcolm McLaren has assembled a new band. They are a group of Chinese singers who record under the name Junk. Any good? "No, they're terrible," says McLaren, who gave the world the Sex Pistols. "But China is the next big thing and I

think they could do with people like me..."

Duck out?

TOBY ROWLAND, son and heir of the businessman Rowland "Toby" Rowland, has been roaming Euro-Disney dressed as Donald Duck. Though more at home padding the streets of Knightsbridge in search of designer vests, Rowland Jr has been dressing up in a duck outfit as part of his training as a junior Disney executive. He is said to be very proud of the humility this shows in one so fortunate.

One warning: as reported elsewhere today, typhoid children have taken to launching violent attacks upon the Mickey and Donalds at Disney's parks, apparently unaware that they contain real human beings, let alone the sensitive skins of tycoons.

No labour

THE LATEST casualty in what his colleague Matthew Parris might call the "vanilla-isation" of the Labour Party is Ben Elton, comedian, controversialist and solid Labour man. He has not been asked to help out on the campaign trail as he did

in 1987 and 1992.

"You help if you're asked," says the self-effacing Elton, "but I don't believe faces like mine do much good. In 1987 I did shows in six marginal seats. In each we played to about 600 people. At the election, Labour lost each seat by about 600 votes. Come to think of it, I'm rather relieved not to have been asked this time."

● Whatever may have happened to Ian Greer last week, Humphrey, his poodle, was protected. At the



"He's so attractive when he's angry"

beginning of the week, Humphrey, whom Greer likes to stroke on his lap in best Blofeld style, was sent to kennels, safe from the media intrusion visited on his owner.

Mr Clean

MORE ANTICS from the Referendum Party and in particular from Patrick Robertson, Sir James Goldsmith's PR man, who has adopted a novel method of screening his phone calls.

Gavin Hewitt, a BBC reporter, telephoned Robertson while working on tonight's *Panorama* programme about Goldsmith, only to be greeted by a thick Mediterranean accent. "Ello?" Inquired the voice. "I'd like to speak to Patrick Robertson," said Hewitt. "I just the cleaner," the voice came back. "Oo wants 'im?" "Gavin Hewitt from *Panorama*." Splutters and exaggerated coughs came down the phone and suddenly the cleaner unmasked himself. It had been Patrick Robertson, Master of Disguise, all along.

Vine time

IN the stately homes of England, talk at the moment is of only one



The Dukes of Devonshire (left) and Marlborough: grape fun

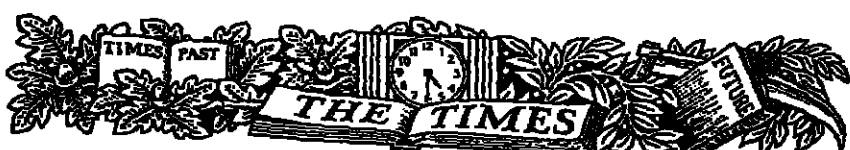
thing: grapes. For this week sees the Royal Horticultural Society's Westminster Flower Show and the annual contest between the Dukes of Devonshire and Marlborough in the White Muscat of Alexandria class. For as long as anyone can remember, the Dukes have monopolised first and second places in the class.

Up at Chatsworth, the mood is upbeat, with Devonshire's forces adopting a pre-bout braggadocio. "I'm pretty confident," says Ian

Webster, Devonshire's greenhouse minder. "The Duke of Marlborough has produced some very good grapes in the past, but this year mine are as good as I've ever produced."

By contrast, the Blenheim camp is quiet. Marlborough takes his grapes as seriously as his ancestors took their grapeshot, and the order has gone out: radio silence until rosette time.

P-H-S



ADAMS IN FRANKFURT

A book to please the publishers — but at what price?

Just over two years ago Gerry Adams's own words could not be broadcast in Britain: this weekend he is a fated author at the Frankfurt Book Fair and his words are set to make him a rich man. The Sinn Féin president's autobiography, *Before the Dawn*, is a bestseller in Ireland, a certain success abroad and has proved an excellent generator of sympathetic media coverage. Mr Adams is enjoying deep draughts of the oxygen of publicity which Margaret Thatcher sought to deny the apologists and orchestrators of terror. He is also enjoying an advance estimated at £100,000. Mr Adams's new prominence and wealth are not so much reversals of fortune as perversions of justice. He and his publishers are profiting from human misery.

Mr Adams's book is not a candid account of physical struggle and moral growth such as Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom*. It is a deeply dishonest document which avoids the many difficult areas of Mr Adams's life. The precise nature of the role Mr Adams has played in Irish republicanism is skated over. The man who was one of the IRA's nominated negotiating team in the Seventies ends his narrative just after the 1981 hunger strikes. There is a brief coda which deals with the current peace process, but any reader anxious to discover what Mr Adams felt about his fellow republicans murdering civilians in Enniskillen or in Warrington will look in vain.

The only detailed insight into the mind of a man prepared to condone murder for political ends comes in a passage of fiction interpolated into the text. A short story is written from the viewpoint of an IRA volunteer preparing to kill a British soldier. The terrorist justifies his action as defence of "his country" against "the enemy". There is no acknowledgement that IRA violence also comprehends racketeering, the death of children or the murder of men whose

families have shared Ulster's soil for as long as Mr Adams and have never felt the need to raise their hands, or voices, for violence.

Perhaps nothing more might have been expected from Mr Adams. A life lived in the shadows has estranged him from honesty. Having been happy to see the lives of others sacrificed for his politics it is no surprise that he should mangle the raw material of his own. But it should be remembered by his readers that Mr Adams became a figure of significance as the public face of a movement which has killed hundreds in defiance of democracy. That he should now use a celebrity bought in blood to make money is profoundly distasteful.

It is also disturbing that a British publisher, Heinemann, should have been prepared to help him. Of course, Sinn Féin has a case, albeit one endorsed by a minority among even Northern Irish nationalists. But the judgment of a company prepared to publish for profit an exculpatory and evasive memoir from a man like Mr Adams must be called into question. Would they be happy to print the reminiscences of any other figure whose allies in the field were planning a bombing campaign calculated to inflict massive civilian casualties?

Perhaps the most ominous aspect of Mr Adams's autobiography is his willingness to pocket the royalties himself. In the past, any money he made from writing went to "republican charities". Mr Adams's decision to keep money which once would have gone to the movement suggests he may be withdrawing from the frontline of republican struggle. If that is so it would confirm suggestions that the IRA campaign is now being directed by men even less attracted by peace and the possibility of compromise than Mr Adams. The ceasefire which gave Mr Adams the opportunity to write this book now seems, in every sense, to have been a false dawn.

DEATH OF AN ARMY

Weakness in the Russian Armed Forces is bad news for Nato

Aleksandr Lebed arrives at Nato's headquarters today to do battle on the subject of Russia's future relations with the Alliance. The outspoken former general has, after earlier conciliatory remarks, added his gravel voice to Kremlin denunciations of Nato's planned enlargement. He may repeat the assertion last week by Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, that Russia would consider enlargement as a provocative breach of the treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe and take "retaliatory measures".

Moscow's resistance is related to uncertainties at home, where Mr Lebed is engaged in his own wars on several fronts. As the negotiator responsible for halting the bloodshed in Chechnya, he faces bitter opposition to what nationalists call a capitulation. As a would-be successor to the ailing President Yeltsin, he is the target of sniping within the Kremlin walls. And as the man responsible for Russia's security, he has been battling to save the Russian Army from bankruptcy and possible mutiny.

The crisis in the Russian Armed Forces is one of the biggest threats not only to Russia itself, but to its neighbours and to the stability of Europe. What was once a trained, capable and disciplined force is now little more than a rabble — impoverished, corrupt and surly. The Government's repeated failure to pay soldiers even their meagre wages, the plundering of the military budget by regional bosses and mafia interests, and the crippling costs of programmes started when the Soviet Union was a superpower have taken a severe toll.

The Armed Forces now have arrears of some 15,000 billion roubles. As a result, military units have been selling their

weapons, tanks, supplies and whatever they can lay hands on simply to buy food and fuel. A worrying proportion of these weapons is reaching Afghans, dictators and criminals. Soldiers, and especially conscripts, have been left to fend for themselves and in remote garrisons in the frozen north and the Far East some units are on the brink of starvation. Ugly rumours of cannibalism, a practice not unknown in Russian military history, are again circulating.

The supply of manpower is disappearing as fast as discipline and training. On paper there should be 1.5 million men under arms, but Moscow admits this has fallen to 1 million and the true figure may be well below that. Only about 10 per cent of those called up are actually drafted; school-leavers are evading conscription, which they see as virtual penal servitude. The once-pampered officer corps is being pensioned off as fast as possible, but is still far larger than warranted. Military housing is well below standard, and men with inadequate shelter and clothing have frozen to death.

Russia still has some formidable military elements: the soldiers in Bosnia are effective and disciplined, and the rocket forces are maintaining their morale. But the military collapse elsewhere is a national humiliation, and one that greatly increases the historically rooted paranoia among Russia's leaders about military encirclement in the event of Nato expansion. Pride in the Red Army is a source of national cohesion in a country which badly needs such symbols of certainty. Regardless of the succession battles in the Kremlin, no Russian government can safely ignore the political dangers implicit in an army bleeding to death.

COBOL'S SECOND COMING

Countdown to meltdown for computer year 2000

The new Millenarians are among us, but unlike the old, whose business plan was to wait patiently on a hilltop for their triumphant Messiah, these are men of action. Their high priests are the members of Taskforce 2000, set up by the Government. Come the millennium, they preach, the end is nigh unless we convert our computers.

Computers have an insatiable appetite for dates. Mortgages, pensions, overdrafts depend on them. The Taskforce's job is to make business aware of a "timebomb" planted decades ago when programmers, working mostly in a language called Cobol, abbreviated dates to save memory. So 1969 became 69, and the mistake of the millennium was made.

As the special report in *The Times* today reminds us, the programmers had their minds on decimalisation. In any case, they thought that by the year 2000 their chips would be redundant. They failed to foresee the Saturday three years, two months and 24 days from today when their programs, still alive and ticking, would misconstrue the new year as 1900 and send the world tumbling into a time warp.

In this projected apocalypse, super-tankers, their guiding satellites unhinged, will miss their berths. Cruise missiles will be silenced, with food riots to follow. Nuclear power stations will shut down. Offices will darken and grow cold. Laptops will fall over, lifts will stall. Gas bills will be

doubly outrageous. Our very video recorders may log themselves off.

How much of this will come to pass no one knows, but business is turning for salvation to software solution providers. These are not, as might be expected, bespectacled 15-year-old millionaires: such youths are unversed in ancient languages. They are instead our old friends the Cobolers, since grown a little grey. Like Flanders and Swann's gasman, they have invented the commercial equivalent of perpetual motion. They are having two bytes of their cherry.

And what a cherry. The cost of removing the millennium bug from the world's computers is perhaps \$200 billion. Already contract programmers are earning £1,000 a week. That should double in the next two years. "The quickest way to make a million dollars is to start a new religion," said L. Ron Hubbard, Scientology's founder. He reckoned without computers.

First, though, the programmers have to recall how they wrote their programs. Not easy — as the psalm puts it, a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is passed. But if enough of them can be found with memories intact, our mainframes, missiles and tills might just be made "millennium-compliant" as the new century dawns. Phew!

There is one beam of sunlight. Erasing these bugs, it has been suggested, will take so long that European economic and monetary union, even if it is wanted, will have to be shelved. The computers could not cope with it. Roll on Armageddon.

'Lifesaving' role of Soviet spies

From Mr Benedict Birnberg

Sir, The recent publication of decoded messages to KGB officers intercepted by American and British listening posts between 1940 and 1947 (the Venona Project) has inevitably focused attention on those who spied for Russia (reports, October 2 and 4).

But I venture to suggest that the question that should be put, and which should be addressed to the US and British Governments of the time is this: why, during the Second World War, when the US, Britain and the Soviet Union were together locked in a life-and-death struggle with Nazi Germany and Japan, and with the Russians bearing the brunt of it, did the Western Allies not share with the Soviet Union vital scientific and other information — not least on the development of the atomic bomb, which could have assisted Russia and speeded the end of the war?

As an instance, one may cite the example of the SIS officer John Cairncross, the so-called "fifth man", who worked at the Government's Code and Cipher School at Bletchley. From 1942 to 1943 Cairncross gave the Soviets confidential information otherwise denied them — the key to the German "Enigma" code — plus technical data on the new German Tiger tank and the texts of intercepted German messages.

The latter, in the words of Cairncross's KGB controller, Yuri Modin (*My Five Cambridge Friends*, Headline, 1994), "saved the lives of tens of thousands of Soviet soldiers" during the final Nazi offensive on the Eastern front. They also played a key part in the strategic Soviet victory in the battle of the Kursk salient, the turning point in the war.

In any dispassionate retrospective assessment people like Cairncross would be judged heroes, not traitors, and the US and British Governments culpable of a betrayal of their Soviet allies.

Yours faithfully,
BENEDICT BIRNBERG,
4 Eliot Place, Blackheath, SE3.
October 4.

From Mr Peter Towers

Sir, Owen Matthews's article (September 30) about the arrest and execution of his Ukrainian grandfather, Boris Bibikov, in Stalin's great purge, reminded me of the story told to me last year by an acquaintance of mine, Professor Vsevolod Lustau, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow.

Professor Lustau's father, a lecturer in chemistry in Moscow, was taken away and shot by the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD, predecessor of the KGB) after they had searched his house during a pre-war purge. As the son of a "dissident", young Lustau was barred from higher education until after the war, during which time he fought in the Russian Army with distinction and was subsequently rehabilitated in society.

Last year Professor Lustau was allowed access for the first time to the NKVD file on his father and was astounded and saddened to discover that the incriminating "evidence" cited for the conviction was a copy of the periodic table of chemical elements found in his possession and assumed by his interrogators to be a secret code.

Although it is a sad and bizarre story, I think its disclosure reflects great credit on the present-day authority in Russia, which does not shrink from exposing the terrors of that pre-war era as a lesson to us all for the future.

Yours sincerely,
PETER TOWERS,
59 Midway Road,
Stevenage, Hertfordshire.
October 4.

Lobbyists at work

From Mr Geoffrey E. Taylor

Sir, Mr Stephen Harrow (letter, October 5) defends the loyalty of Baroness Turner to Ian Greer Associates. We may agree with him if we regard her as merely holding an outside paid directorship of a commercial company — something which many MPs routinely do.

Unfortunately, Lady Turner's case is not as simple as that: a great many members of both Houses serve on boards of ordinary companies because their training and/or experience is in the same field of activity as that company. They have appropriate expertise to offer and most maintain a "Chinese wall" between this and their positions in Parliament.

But Mr Greer's company is not an ordinary company: its *raison d'être* is to wield influence with Parliament on behalf of its clients. A lobbying company, as long as it receives its fee, will promote the Salvation Army or vivisection of kittens equally. It rarely pretends to support its clients out of conviction.

Members of Parliament are its soldiers, struggling to promote their views and policies because they believe in them, lobbyists are Parliament's mercenaries — serving whoever pays them the most.

Lady Turner must have known what the activities of this company were: I can't imagine what induced her to join the board.

Sincerely,
GEOFFREY E. TAYLOR,
184 Eastworth Road,
Chertsey, Surrey.
October 5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Calls for clarity on joining EMU

From Mr Andrew Harris

Sir, John Major, in his article of October 5, "We must not allow EMU to be fudged", states that we must remain in the negotiations on the European single currency, as we shall be affected by it whether we join or not. Therefore, he argues, we must seek to influence the negotiations in our favour.

The logical extension of that argument is that we can never publicly declare that we do not want to be part of EMU phase one, as this would exclude us from the negotiations. Surely at some stage we shall have to "come out" with our decision not to join initially, if such is our decision.

Mr Major should be much more concerned with trying to decide now whether joining EMU will be in Britain's interests or not, and telling the electors where he stands, than with vainly trying to influence the other 14 members of the EU. The time for that is past. He should have the courage to say publicly that EMU is far ahead of its time and will only bring tears to those who get caught up in the experiment.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW HARRIS,
10 Evertons Close,
Droitwich, Worcestershire.
October 6.

From Dr Alan Sked

Sir, The Prime Minister's article today adopts the old Eurofederalist ruse of disguising issues of basic political principle as ones of economic technicalities.

What Mr Major should have told us is whether, if all the Maastricht convergence criteria are met, he would be happy to see our gold reserves transferred to Frankfurt and our economic policy made by unelected foreigners. In other words, is he in favour of British independence as a matter of principle, or not?

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SKED
(Leader, UK Independence Party),
Flat 3, Aberdeen Court,
68 Aberdeen Park, N5,
October 5.

From Mr John Peek

Sir, As a lifelong Europhile I am disturbed at the apparent confusion of mind of even the distinguished people whose letters you published on September 30 with regard to the consequences of economic and monetary union. In the same issue you report Kenneth Clarke as saying that he is "opposed to the idea of a United States of Europe", in which case, since we are told that he favours EMU, he must be as confused as anyone.

Participation in EMU requires a country to transfer its foreign exchange reserves to the European Central Bank in Frankfurt. This and other requirements of the Maastricht treaty remove from a member state all further possibility of independent action: they convert it, inescapably and irrevocably, into a province of the European Union.

My object in writing is not to ex-

Low-cost travel

From Mr Stelios Haji-Ioannou

Sir, I respect people who feel nostalgic about the good old days of rail travel and perhaps your correspondents (letters, September 30) are right that it was the "epitome of luxury transport".

But I would like to inject a bit of common sense and elementary transport economics. Given the choice, people are not willing to pay for frills. They will gladly receive them if packages are at a higher price ticket, but we all know there is no such thing as a free lunch.

Our experience with operating no-frills air services between London and Scotland for nearly a year is that people base their decision on how to travel mainly on price and convenience of timings. The market is growing because travelling is now within reach of a wider class of people, and that helps local economies as well.

Yours faithfully,
STELIOS HAJI-IOANNOU
(Chairman), EasyJet Airline Co Ltd,
Luton Airport, Bedfordshire.
October 2.

Highland university

From Professor Sir Graham Hills

Sir, I must take issue with Magnus Linklater (*The closing of our minds*, October 3) about the objectives and procedures of the new University of the Highlands and Islands.

It is true that the university will make the greatest possible use of the new information technologies and it is true that it will be a networked confederation of widely separated colleges. But it is not true that its use of technology will be a substitute for human contact.

Information technology is not and never was an end in itself. It is no more than a sophisticated pen or brush with which to capture the imagination and to share visions in text, in symbols, in diagrams, in pictures and in sound, without regard for distance or time. Its greatest potential is to tame the knowledge base, to reduce the current emphasis on facts, to liberate students from the drudgery of the lecture theatre as a scriptorium and to allow them time to think and play.

At the heart of the new university is

press a view for or against EMU, but to ask the leaders of opinion to be clear about the political consequences of this momentous step and to make these consequences clear to the general public in good time.

The electorate should be allowed an unbiased vote on the issue, in the knowledge that there are, for Britain at least, viable alternatives to EMU. Otherwise there could be trouble later, when the deed is done.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PEEK,
Les Broches,
Chambonas, 07140 Les Vans, France.
October 1.

From Mr Michael Walton

Sir, I wholeheartedly endorse the comments of Mr John Coleman, Editor of *The New European* (letter, September 30), regarding the creation of a hard ecu: it would certainly appeal to the traveller and could stabilise the terms of long-term debts such as mortgages. It has the "feel-good" factor of British pragmatism about it too.

It would be a return to the gold standard in another guise, an idea thoroughly comprehensible to the man in the street, and require none of the artificial "stability pacts" or other regulatory attempts to control values. It would also remove the threats of monetary speculation that lurk behind the present EMU proposals, dangers demonstrated so vividly in Anatole Kaletsky's analysis (*Business*, October 1), "Labour needs to get real".

The individual, the pensioner, the company director, the banks, the Chancellor, would still retain their choice of saving, spending or trading with old-fashioned pounds, francs or whatever — the ecu being the "whatever", whose parity would automatically be adjusted as new members joined the European Union. It would divorce finance from the political debate, surely a worthwhile goal in itself?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WALTON,
Thripplow House,
Thripplow, Hertfordshire.
October 2.

From Mr John Davis

Sir, In the 1975 referendum the Euro-enthusiasts muddled the pool by playing down the federal nature of the EEC. Euro-sceptics do the same today by babbling incessantly about "loss" of sovereignty. In a federation sovereignty is not lost, it is pooled to be made more effective globally.

Mr Tim Parkinson (letter, October 2) might try explaining to his pupils at Winchester College how the people of Winchester (half our population, considerably greater gross product) are harmed, economically or politically, by their state being part of the USA and the Federal Reserve System. To my eyes, they seem rather successful.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. DAVIS,
54 Woodlands Road,
Bookham, Surrey.
October 2.

Teacher training

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, In his article of September 24, "There is madness in their method", the Chief Inspector of Schools wrote that I regard the requirement that student teachers be taught how to teach reading as a capitulation to the obsessions of far-right policy advisers. Not true.

What I in fact said was that all primary student teachers were entitled to that training. I went on to warn the Education Secretary to guard against the trainee teachers' national curriculum being used to promote the obsessions of far-right policy makers.

Mr Woodhead has converted a warning as to the future into an accusation of capitulation in the past. They are entirely different things.

Yours sincerely,
DOUG MEAVOY,
General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House,
Mableton Place, WC1.
October 4.

therefore an extensive tutorial system. All education, and not least that in universities, is to do with person-to-person exchanges. This was ever the basis of the development of the individual and of the formation of character.

This is a time of great change and opportunity for those who would view the new technologies in a positive light. It is possible that Mr Linklater has been rubbing shoulders with the more pessimistic of vice-chancellors who see the future as a threat rather than an opportunity. That would be a shame.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM HILLS
(Academic Adviser to the University of the Highlands and Islands Project),
Sunnyside of Threepwood,
Lairg Threepwood, Beith, Ayrshire.
October 3.

Sport letters, page 38

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

If there's a will there's a donation

From Mr Richard Radcliffe

Sir, The week beginning October 14 is "Make a Will Week", when many solicitors are reducing their fees for drafting a will.

Legacies are a wonderfully painless way of giving: having pledged a gift you wake up the next morning to find your bank balance has not changed. Almost £1 billion reaches charities through legacies each year. Even so, only one in seven people who make a will leave a charitable bequest.

There are various moments in our lives when we really ought to consider making, or changing, our will: marriage, becoming a parent, divorce, retirement, becoming a grandparent, death of a spouse or partner, when inheriting money or winning it in the National Lottery.

How many people, for example, think about making, or changing, their will when they have their first child (to appoint guardians; otherwise the child could go into care if both parents die)?

What (more controversially) about the fact that making or changing a will increases your life expectancy? According to research by Smees and Ford (a company which reads every will after estates have been proven) on average you die 4.1 years after your last will change. Renew your will every 4.0 years and you can live forever.

If that does not convince you, then consider this — the average age at death of those dying intestate is 69; of those dying testate it is 79; but of those dying testate and leaving a charitable bequest it is 82.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RADCLIFFE (Director,
Legacy Campaigns Division),
Buzzacon (Chartered accountants),
12 New Fetter Lane, EC4.
October 5.

Juvenile offenders

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, The Shadow Home Secretary's "catch-em-young" approach to juvenile offending has significant cost implications (We'll see juveniles in court, October 3).

Despite its 85 per cent success rate with first offenders, a Labour government would apparently replace cautioning by a "final warning", thus triggering multi-agency assessment, work with parents, counselling, group work, reparation and supervised activities. This will be both expensive and wasteful.

Jack Straw's proposal would mean massive social work intervention with minor offenders who do not need it. Moreover, it begs the question of what will happen to that minority of young people whose offending is persistent and serious. What will be left for them except (even more expensive) custody?

The present system is far from perfect: with youngsters even more than with adults, delay is the enemy of justice, and there is no case for endlessly repeated cautions (which is why Michael Howard has stopped them). But I simply cannot recognise Mr Straw's characterisation of the youth justice system as one of "comprehensive failure".

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
The Old Trading House,
15 Northburgh Street, EC1.

From Mr Robin Beare

Sir, It seems to have escaped the attention of all politicians that a huge reduction in the incidence of juvenile crime would be achieved if that absurd restriction — "who cannot be named for legal reasons" — were removed.

Let the law be changed; let the parents and their offspring be named and shamed.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN BEARE,
Scrags Farm,
Cowden, Edenbridge, Kent.

Crime statistics

From Professor Michael Hough

Sir, Peter Coad (letter, October 2) argues that this year's 0.4 per cent rise in recorded crime "compares very favourably with the period when anti-person ideology dominated".

Police statistics are a poor guide to the underlying trend. The British Crime Survey provides a better index. This shows that from 1991 to 1995 crime increased by 23 per cent, as against a 4 per cent fall in the corresponding police statistics.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOUGH
(Director, Criminal Policy Research Unit),
South Bank University,
103 Borough Road, SE1.

Mystery solved

From Mr A. E. Rideout

Sir, Concerning the vexed question of the primacy of the chicken or the egg, Miss Jennifer Early's findings (letter, October 2) confirm the solution proposed by Samuel Butler: "A hen is only an egg's way of making another egg" (*Life and Habit*, 1877, chapter 8).

Yours faithfully,
A. E. RIDEOUT,
29 Fleet Street, Beaminster, Dorset.
October 2.

1

OBITUARIES

LORD COLNBROOK

Lord Colnbrook, KCMG, PC, who as Humphrey Atkins was Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, 1979-81, died on October 4 aged 74. He was born on August 12, 1922.

A man whose reputation as a politician and statesman was that of someone of traditionalist instincts, fundamentally decent and honourable, yet also accident prone, Humphrey Atkins occupied the unenvied office of Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for the first two years of Margaret Thatcher's first Government. He had been called to the post in the wake of the death of Airey Neave, who would certainly have been Mrs Thatcher's first choice for the job, since he had been Shadow Ulster Secretary for four years while the Conservatives were in opposition. A hardliner who had been the mastermind behind Mrs Thatcher's leadership victory four years before, he had her total respect. But Neave had been killed by an IRA bomb which exploded in his car in the underground car park of the House of Commons in March 1979. And when Mrs Thatcher came to form her Cabinet after her general election victory in May of that year, the Ulster post went to Humphrey Atkins.

As such he was to know at first hand all the intractable problems associated with Ulster at a time of particular difficulty. In the event, for the next two years he attempted without any success to find solutions to the question of a form of devolved government for the province to replace direct rule from London. A new system of local government: a power-sharing executive; the "European connection" in which the province's peculiar problems might be seen in the context of membership of the European Community; were all aired in some form or another to see if anything could be made of them.

But after various attempts to reach a formula for agreement based on collaboration between the leaders of the Protestant and Catholic communities, Atkins was forced to admit defeat. His final suggestion, a devolved assembly elected by proportional representation, yet allowing balancing powers to the minority, fell equally on stony ground. By March of 1981 he was compelled to pronounce his initiatives dead and his last months in the post were marred by IRA hunger strikes in the Maze Prison.

In September of that year he was appointed Lord Privy Seal, and as such deputy to the Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington. But his experience in this post was to be no happier than his Ulster one had been, and was of considerably briefer duration. When the Argentines seized the Falklands Islands in April 1982 he, like

his chief, was left having been thoroughly caught out over what was in the wind. To make matters worse, he was assuring the Commons that the Argentines had not landed in the Falklands hours after their invasion had, in fact, got under way. When Lord Carrington resigned, so did Atkins.

It was effectively the end of his political career at that level, although his conservative instincts found outlet and employment in a number of other posts such as chairman of the Select Committee on Defence and president of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, before he was made a life peer in 1987.

Humphrey Edward Gregory Atkins was a son of Captain E. D. Atkins an ex-Indian Army officer who had settled in Kenya, where he established a coffee plantation on barren terrain which had been allocated to him. For three months the family lived in the back of a lorry while they built somewhere to live and recruited labour. But when Atkins was only three his father was killed by a wounded rhinoceros. Mrs Atkins returned with her son to England and left a partner to run the plantation. She sold out her share just before the Mau Mau troubles.

Atkins went to school at Wellington and entered the Royal Navy with a special cadetship in 1940. After his training at Dartmouth he saw service first in the old battleship, Nelson and later in destroyers on convoy escort. He was first lieutenant of the destroyer *Highlander* from 1942 and sailed in her on escort duty between Newfoundland and Londonderry and on the run from south coast ports to Gibraltar.

It was during the period that his fleetlife was based on Londonderry that he first became acquainted with the people of Northern Ireland, though at that stage he could have no notion of the circumstances in which he would return there. He liked, in later years, to recall how the ship was cheered when it came into port with a bagpiper playing on the fore'st'le.

In 1944 he married Margaret, a daughter of Sir Robert Spencer-Nairn, who had joined the WRNS.

On leaving the Navy in 1948, he was taken on by his father-in-law in his linoleum manufacturing business at Kirkcaldy, Fife. His interest in politics dated from this period; he joined the local branch of the Conservative and Unionist Association and in the 1950 general election he helped in the campaign of J. Henderson Stewart (later to be a Minister at the Scottish Office) in East Fife. At the general election of 1951 — at short notice — he was adopted as Conservative candidate for West Lothian. But Labour held the



seat, albeit with a slightly reduced majority.

The Surrey constituency of Merton and Morden offered a better prospect; he was adopted there in 1955 and won in a straight fight with Labour. He continued to represent this constituency until 1970 when, following boundary changes, he switched to Spelthorne, Surrey, which he continued to represent until 1987. From 1959 to 1962 he was parliamentary private secretary to Charles Orr-Ewing, Civil Lord of the Admiralty.

On the backbenches Atkins took a close interest in defence, a theme to which he was to return at the other end of his

political career. Between 1964 and 1970, when the Conservatives were in opposition, he was secretary of the backbenchers' defence committee, and in 1967 William Whitelaw, then Chief Whip, asked him to join the team in the Whips' Office.

When the Conservatives won power again in 1970, he was Deputy Chief Whip to Francis Pym and took over from him in December 1973. He was Government Chief Whip until the Labour Party returned to power in February 1974 and was Opposition Chief Whip until the general election in May 1979.

One successful vote Atkins was proud

to recall during the period of Edward Heath's Administration was that of October 28, 1971, after six days of debate, which gave a majority of 112 in favour of Britain's entry into the European Economic Community. A free vote was allowed on the Conservative side, though the Labour MPs were whipped. Pym and Atkins were able in advance to tell Edward Heath, the Prime Minister, with only one exception how every Tory MP proposed to vote. Atkins also played a key role in organising the Tory vote in the series of divisions which were called during the late stages of proceedings on the Industrial Relations Bill in 1971.

After the general election which brought her to power in 1979, Mrs Thatcher, deprived of her closest political adviser in the person of the murdered Airey Neave, turned to Atkins to take on what she knew to be one of the most demanding, as well as the most dangerous, responsibilities in the new Conservative Government. In spite of the fact that, in his life, Atkins maintained an on the surface calm approach to all the problems that daily confronted him in Ulster. In private, he might sometimes show his anger at what he regarded as the entrenched stupidities of some of the Northern Ireland politicians, but in his official dealings he was punctiliously correct.

His object, backed up by the Prime Minister, was to get some kind of reasonable consensus between the Protestant and Catholic communities, and his various initiatives, worked out on a number of permutations, sought to achieve some civilised arrangement. At that time, Mrs Thatcher saw the "European connection" as a means of improving relations between Protestant-dominated Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. At the time Atkins saw the dangers of presenting the contiguous "Irish dimension" in these new terms, since he felt it played into the hands of the extremist wing of the Protestant majority.

Nevertheless, the attempt was made and there was an effort by British officials to follow-up the vague agreement reached at the Dublin meeting with Charles Haughey, then Taoiseach, in 1980. But the IRA chiefs saw to it that the British Government should be placed in the dock if it did not produce some instant solutions. The Maze prison hunger strikes and the deaths of IRA prisoners put the initiative under pressure, not eased by that being applied by politicians in the United States and other countries.

Against this critical background, Atkins maintained a firm stance. In his view the prisoners had been convicted of civil crimes and they were not to be treated as having "political status". From his first White Paper published in November 1979,

which aired the possibilities of the transfer of "as wide a range of powers as can be agreed" to some new system of local government in which the large Catholic minority should have a share, and through various elaborations of this principle, Atkins encountered opposition from one quarter or another. An executive, with some posts filled by appointment in proportion to the party strengths in the elected body, ran into opposition from Official Unionists and, at first, the SDLP. But a conference was held and talking went on from January to March 1980.

A second conference was set up by Atkins to discuss matters other than strictly political ones. A second White Paper set out two more possible forms of government. But what was acceptable to Democratic Unionists was not to the SDLP and vice versa. A further White Paper discussed the establishment of an advisory council which might even exclude Sinn Féin. But by this time the Maze prison hunger protests, and hunger strikes which led to some deaths, were beginning to bulk large on the agenda. Passions were running too high for a rational assessment of the likely success of any of the political formulae Atkins had toyed with, and by early 1981 he concluded that all his initiatives had run into the sand.

He moved to become Lord Carrington's deputy at the Foreign Office, replacing Sir Ian Gilmour, then seen as too "wet" by Mrs Thatcher. But the Foreign Office was to be found wanting in the total failure of Intelligence to alert the Government to the impending Falklands crisis, and its political head and deputy head honourably resigned.

Nevertheless the Prime Minister was to continue to appreciate Atkins's robust conservative qualities (he voted for the restoration of hanging in 1983) and he was her favoured candidate to take over as chairman of the Defence Select Committee in December 1983. He remained in the post until 1987 and was also President of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations for the year 1985-86.

Having been appointed KCMG in 1983, Atkins was given a life peerage as Lord Colnbrook in 1987. Outside his strictly political duties he was chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, 1991-94, and was chairman of the Airey Neave Trust, 1984-90. A robust individual of considerable personal charm, he remained as phlegmatic after leaving high office as he had been in the cauldron of the Northern Ireland situation.

He is survived by his wife Margaret, and by one son and three daughters.

SIR REGINALD PULLEN

Sir Reginald Pullen, KCVO, Receiver-General of Westminster Abbey, 1959-87, died on September 25 aged 74. He was born on February 17, 1922.

"ASK REG" was a familiar saying in every corner of the Westminster Abbey family, whenever a serious problem needed to be addressed. He was the man behind the scenes on most royal occasions: notably the weddings of Princess Margaret and Prince Alexander, the wedding of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips and that of the Duke and Duchess of York. Very junior in 1953, he had nevertheless cut his teeth on some of the administrative problems germane to the Coronation, and later, at short notice he had been behind the scenes at the funeral of Earl Mountbatten, an event which by its very nature, had to be organised with great speed.

"Royal weddings have to be run like a military operation," he once said, adding in an amused parenthesis: "When I was a boy I wanted to be station master at Paddington — but I suppose there are similarities with this job." Certainly, his unobtrusive but firm hand behind the scenes ensured the smooth running of many an event whose complex details might, in less experienced hands, have been fraught with risk.

A Cornishman, William Reginald Francis Pullen was educated at Falmouth Grammar School, going from there into the RAFVR at the outbreak of war, serving in the UK and in South-East Asia, where he ended the war in the administrative and special duties branch.

He joined the Westminster Abbey staff as assistant to the chief accountant in 1947. It was the year of the Queen's wedding, the first of the great royal spectacles he was to witness at first hand. He became deputy registrar in 1951, and in 1959 he was appointed Receiver-General, the post he held until his retirement in 1987. On his retirement he was appointed KCVO and in 1988 he became Deputy High Bailiff of Westminster Abbey.



He served four Deans, and as the senior lay member gave outstanding service to the Abbey. His contribution to the rebuilding of Abbey life after the war and to the 1953 fundraising campaign can scarcely be overestimated. His skill in diplomacy ensured that time after time he found solutions to problems which had at first seemed intractable, but were resolved in a manner acceptable to all parties. And, perhaps as important as this quality, he promoted and maintained cordial relations with the Westminster City Council, which, before his period of tenure had not been in particularly good repair. He was a member of the council from 1962 to 1965 and was also on the governing body of Westminster School.

He established close links with the St John Ambulance Brigade, which provided

first aid facilities (always a vital component of occasions in which so many are gathered together in close proximity) in the Abbey for all royal, State and other important services with very large congregations. He was appointed a Knight of St John in 1987.

After more than 40 years of service to the Abbey he applied his skills to the United Westminster Almshouses as Clerk to the Trustees. He was a magistrate for 25 years, sitting on the bench which dealt with junior offenders. He was a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, and a Freeman of the Company of Wax Chandlers.

In 1948 he married into the Westminster Abbey family, his wife being Angela Hebron, the daughter of the Registrar. He is survived by her and by two daughters.

MARTYN HARRIS

Martyn Harris, journalist and author, died of cancer on October 4 aged 43. He was born on October 7, 1952.

ALTHOUGH he published two novels which were favourably received, Martyn Harris was best known for his journalism. In this he came to prominence at first for his interviews and feature articles, the latter always of the well-observed and usually somewhat unsparing sort.

More recently he had become a name pre-eminently as a columnist, and notably for those columns in which he recounted his battle against cancer. Week after week in the pages of *The Daily Telegraph* he reported unsparingly on the progress of the disease, imparting to the topic an interest that was not merely pathological, using it instead as a forum in which he expounded the philosophical and religious thoughts to which such an ultimately doomed struggle gave rise. As an exercise the column had its detractors, but none could ever accuse its author of self pity. Harris always faced himself.

Martyn Harris was the son of a Swansea greengrocer. But, although brought up in a literary ethos in which the memory of Dylan Thomas held sway, it was to the spare Englishman George Orwell that he went for his prose model, turning his back firmly on the florid style of his loquacious compatriot.

At school he showed precocity in writing and in all things pertaining to literature. When he went to the University of

Kent to read English and American literature, he continued to devour books. On graduating he intercalated into his academic career a year of travel and odd jobs before going to Keele University to study for an MA and take a postgraduate teaching qualification.

From teaching computer language at ICL he made his way into mainstream journalism via a brief editorship of the *Journal Office Systems*, before being noticed by the editor of *New Society*, Paul Barker. His sharply observed articles on a range of topics from politics to family life soon became a feature of the magazine and led him to a publication which might have been thought antithetical to one of his left-wing leanings.

But Harris and *The Daily Telegraph* coexisted more than happily with each other. He travelled Britain and the world, writing on a wide variety of subjects in the pithy prose style he was to make his own. Although the restraints of an office — indeed the constraints of journalism in general — did not seem to come easily to him, he was renowned at the *Telegraph* for copy which came in on time, and which needed little if anything done to it when it did arrive.

Besides his journalism, Harris also wrote two novels. The first of these, *Do It Again*, described the return of a self-made man to his left-wing roots. A pleasant, but essentially lightweight excursion through childhood and youth, it was succeeded by the more substantial *The Mother-in-Law Joke*, which appeared in



1992. Although it, too, was about a Westman on the make in the big wide world outside the frontiers of the Principality, *The Mother-in-Law Joke* charted somewhat darker waters than its predecessor, in particular recreating different London locations with economy and skill.

When Harris fell ill in 1995 *The Spectator*, to which he had also contributed a remarkable series of columns,

asked him to describe his responses to having cancer. And this article formed the basis for a shorter piece which subsequently appeared in the *Telegraph*. He was to continue to contribute a column on the disease to the *Telegraph* almost to the end.

He is survived by his second wife, Caroline and their son, and by the son and daughter of his first marriage, to Cathy Mees.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury 1633-45. Reading, 1575; John Marston, dramatist, Warrington, Oxfordshire, 1576; Sir Ralph Abercromby, general, Menstrie, Clackmannanshire, 1734; Caroline Anne Southey, poet, Lymington, Hampshire, 1786; Niels Bohr, atomic physicist, Nobel laureate 1922, Copenhagen, 1885.

DEATHS: Giovanni Guarini, poet, Venice, 1612; Antonio Sacchini, composer, Paris, 1780; Thomas Reid, philosopher, Glasgow, 1796; Edgar Allan Poe, writer, Baltimore, Maryland, 1849; Oliver Wendell Holmes, physician and writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1894; Walter William Skeat, etymologist, Cambridge, 1912; Sir Hubert Parry, composer, Rustington, Sussex,

1918; Alfred Deakin, Prime Minister of Australia 1903-04, 1905-08 and 1909-10. Melbourne, 1919; Marie Lloyd, music hall singer, London, 1922; Harvey Cushing, pioneer of neurosurgery, New Haven, Connecticut, 1939; C.R.W. Nevinson, painter, London, 1946; Mario Lanza, tenor and film actor, Rome, 1959.

The bell was salvaged from the *Lutine* which sank off the coast of Holland, 1799. It was later presented to Lloyd's of London.

The first airline, KLM of Holland, was established, 1919.

Church news

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Vivienne Aggett, Resident Minister, Hedsorford St Saviour (Lichfield): to retire October 31.

The Rev Marion Bamford, Priest-in-charge, St Edward the Confessor, Brotherton (Wakefield): retired August 31.

The Rev John Dewar, Vicar, Longhorsley and Hebron (Newcastle): retired September 30.

Barnsley (Wakefield): to resign November 30.

The Rev Nicholas Monk, Team Rector, St John the Baptist and St Andrew, Swindon (Bristol): to retire April 30, 1997.

Canon Stanley Prins, Rector, Humshaugh w Simonburn and Wark (Newcastle): to retire November 30.

The Rev Gordon (Robin) Fletcher, Vicar, Ryhope (Durham): retired September 30, with permission to officiate same diocese.

Canon Edward Turner: to resign as Diocesan Director of Education (Rochester), but continues as a Canon Residentiary and as Vice-Dean of Rochester Cathedral and be also a Diocesan Adviser on Community Affairs, same diocese.

HITLER'S PEACE

The oration delivered before the sounding-board of a dummy Reichstag yesterday was, as always, of immense length and exuberance. It consisted in part of a hymn to German military glory and of a paean of triumph over the defeated Poles. For the rest it was devoted to the same protestations of sweet reasonableness with which he has both heralded and followed every act of violence against his neighbours from 1933 onwards, and to a rehearsal of peace proposals contradicting in detail but not differing in kind from the whole series of fine-seeming offers, which he has in the past succeeded in guarding so carefully from any practical test. In Germany, no doubt it will be fairly sure of an uncritical audience. Let it be remembered that the German people are forbidden under the heaviest penalties to listen to foreign broadcasts at all. Such comment from abroad as is allowed to reach German eyes and ears is edited with ingenious care. Never has the mind of any nation been more sedulously

ON THIS DAY

October 7, 1939

The report of Hitler's speech to the Reichstag after the fall of Poland was fully covered over four columns in *The Times*, but his word was no longer trusted.

shielded from the truth, more anxiously and oppressively moulded from day to day. If Hitler's own utterances are to be trusted there is nothing that the German people will not swallow. There is assuredly little in them that, in a somewhat different sense, Hitler has not swallowed, and the world's scrutiny of his latest utterance will be guided by a complete and accurate knowledge of the deadly verdict which Hitler himself has passed on Hitler... Yesterday it was the

turn of the Poles, his latest victim — and his last. Year by year Hitler has larded Poland with assurances — "Poland will continue to exist" (1933)... "Germans and Poles must reconcile themselves to the fact of each others' existence" (1934)... "We recognize the Polish state as the home of a great patriotic nation" (1938)... "Poland will remain Poland" (1938)... "Danzig and Germany respect Polish rights" (1939)... and so on. Just five months ago he assured Mr. Roosevelt that "all States bordering on Germany have received much more binding assurances" than any demanded of him. And yesterday? Poland is a State that should never have existed. Her existence was always bound to lead to war. True to his most contemptible trait he seeks to discredit Polish valour, naively explaining that he does not want any legend of Polish heroism to enslave itself with the memory of the defence of Warsaw, Modlin, and Hel... Unconsciously he belittles the German achievement by pouring contempt upon the organization and leadership of the Polish State.

